

# THE ROMULUS ROMAN

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Feb. 24 - Mar. 2, 2005

The Official Newspaper Of The City Of Romulus

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## State, federal budgets bring mixed news to city

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

Recently announced developments at the state and federal levels will yield a mixed bag of results when Romulus officials begin budget discussions this spring.

The good news is Gov. Jennifer Granholm announced she will not seek to cut state-shared revenues to cities this year. That, said Mayor Alan Lambert, is a big relief for cities who for the past three years have had to pare down staff and services.

"This was excellent news," he said. "I think we would have been able to get through it OK if there had been cuts because we have a surplus, but I think we're in good shape. We're fortunate enough to be in better shape than some of the communities that surround us."

Michigan municipalities – and Romulus is no exception – has dealt with budget cuts in the wake of a weakened state economy. Councilman Michael Prybyla said the city has had a few things working for them that have made the cuts considerably less than in neighboring cities, though.

"What saved us going into last year was the fact that

*"I think we would have been able to get through it OK if there had been cuts because we have a surplus, but I think we're in good shape."*  
**Mayor Alan Lambert**

we got \$1.5 million in tax dollars from airport parking," he said. "Last year, we didn't have to cut any jobs, but we did leave some jobs unfilled after someone quit or retired. It wasn't easy for us, but I think we did pretty well overall."

For the 2004-05 budget year, the city had to cut \$185,000 from the general fund budget. The mayor and council members balanced the budget by taking the needed dollars from the fund balance and delaying large purchases, Lambert said.

However, city officials did get some news they expect

will have a negative effect on the 2005-06 budget. Municipalities learned early last week they could lose their tax-exempt status when purchasing gasoline. But municipalities will be able to file for a refund for a 24.4-percent refund per gallon for the gas they use in city-owned vehicles. The cost to municipalities – in addition to the difference between the price of gas and the refund – would primarily be administrative, Lambert said.

"We're crunching some numbers right now to determine how this could affect us," Lambert said. "I think this could be impactful, but I also think we could take some vehicles out of our fleet if it's necessary. We'd also have to budget to pay the taxes, and I think we can do that."

Prybyla said he feels the gas provision could have a big impact on the city. "We use a lot of gas in our DPW (Department of Public Works) vehicles, and our police cars," he said. "I don't think we know how much of it we use, but we're going to have to deal with that."

Another setback could be the potential for a 50 percent reduction in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), proposed as part of the federal budget. The cut

See **Budget**, page 3



### Future engineers

Students at Romulus High School have worked for hours fashioning a box full of metal bars, wires, screws, nails and other supplies into a robot to compete in the 2005 FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) competition. The program requires students, with the help of professional engineers from the General Motors Powertrain Plant in Romulus, to build a robot that will compete in several sports-oriented tasks in competitions. The program is intended to get students excited about technology and engineering. Students worked on a CAD/CAM workstation to design the robot. Pictured here are (left to right) are: Kevin Gay, GM Powertrain Engineer Christina Reynolds, Malcolm Rhodes and Amanda Collins. In the second row are: Markita Hudson, Wallace Reynolds, Christine Plank and Vaughn Liendo. In the third row are: Greg Cooper, Elvis Celske, Jane Johnson, faculty advisor Joey Ditsch, Jarran Booker, Eric Pace, Vanessa Rhodes, Ciera Warren, Nick Greg, Joshua Slaght and Gary Wogamen.

## Police seek help in missing teenager case

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

Thomas' family members have not heard from her since the morning of Feb. 8.

Thomas' friends also told investigators she had corresponded with others on the Internet and told them she was 18 years old, Leacher said.

The teen is described as 5-foot 4-inches tall and 200 pounds with long, straight black hair and brown eyes. She was last seen wearing a black winter coat with a hood and a black sweater and blue jeans. A friend told officers she also had a change of clothes with her on the day she disappeared — a pair of black and beige jeans, a black hooded sweat shirt with a zipper in front and a beige top.

Anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of Legina Thomas is asked to contact Romulus Police Ofc. Anthony Norman at (734) 955-8814, or Leacher at (734) 942-6856.

Police are asking for help from area residents who might know the whereabouts of 16-year-old Legina Antionett Thomas, a student at Romulus High School who went missing on Feb. 8.

Romulus Police Det. Lt. John Leacher said Thomas' parents reported her missing after she failed to return home from school on Feb. 8. He added that the teen could be in a dangerous situation with a man she was corresponding with on the Internet.

"We think she's probably in Detroit," he said. "Any help the public can give us in locating her (Thomas) would help a great deal."

Detectives learned Thomas might have been talking with a man on the Internet from her friends. But very little information about who the man is known at this time, Leacher said.

## 'Wedding' raises \$1,700 for shelter

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

A wedding that rivaled the recent Donald Trump-Melania Knauss affair took place in Romulus this weekend, and in this case, it was for a good cause.

Two purebred Yorkshire terriers, Gizmo and Sophie, walked down the aisle at the Romulus Senior Center and vowed to live with their owner, Senior Center Director Linda Norman, until death do them part.

But the best thing about the wedding is that it generated \$1,700 for a new Romulus Animal Shelter. Councilman William

Wadsworth, the best man at the wedding and the driving force behind the fundraising effort for a new shelter, said the wedding was a fun way to bring light to an issue that is becoming more troublesome in the city.

"Unfortunately people are dumping unwanted animals in Romulus," he said. "Our current shelter is 70 years old, and it's not big enough for the animals we try to help," he said. "We had to euthanize about 2,000 animals. But we were able to adopt out about 350, and if we had a big enough

See **Wedding**, page 3



Mayor Alan Lambert holds Gizmo, and Senior Center Director Linda Norman holds Sophie during the dog nuptials last Saturday.



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD FEBRUARY 7,  
2005 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ROMULUS CITY HALL,  
11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.  
**Present:** Leroy Burcroff, William Crova, Randolph Gear, Charles Miller, Michail Prybyla, Debbie Romak, William Wadsworth.

Administrative Officials in Attendance:  
Alan Lambert, Mayor  
Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk  
Pamela Morrison/Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer

1. Motion by Romak, supported by Crova to approve the agenda as presented”

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak Wadsworth.  
Nays - None  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-035

2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held January 24, 2005 as presented.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.  
Nays -None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-036

3A1. Motion by Romak, supported by Burcroff to approve the appointment of Johanna O’Grady-Ward as 34th District Court Magistrate for week-end arraignments with Wayne County.

Roll Call Vote Showing. Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-037

3A2. Motion by Wadsworth supported by Crova to concur with the recommendation of Cyndi Lyon, City Planner and grant the request from Resource Recovery to vacate Avalon Avenue, west of Moore Avenue, abutting Lots 55 and 56, and the Alley adjacent to Lots 39-55 inclusive and Lots 95-111 inclusive of the McConalogue Subdivision.

Roll call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth.  
Nays - Miller, Romak.  
Motion Carried.

05-038

3A3. Motion by Romak, supported by Burcroff to concur with the recommendation of Planning Commission and grant tentative Preliminary Plat approval to PC-2004-031TPP, to Elro Corporation for a 92 lot single family subdivision on a 43.58+- acre parcel located on the north side Tyler Road west of Cogswell, DP#s 82-80-027-99-0007-000, 82-80-070-99-0005-000, 82-80-027-99-0010-000 consistent with the recommendation of the City Planning Consultant, City Engineering Consultant, and City Planners memorandum dated January 11, 2005. Tentative Preliminary Plat is for a period of one year and will expire February 7, 2006.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-039

3A4. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to grant Special Land Use Approval for PC-2004-043 First Industrial, for construction of a 303,180 sq. ft. large truck oriented warehouse with 107 truck doors, located at 27651 Hildebrandt, in an MT-2 Zoned District subject to 1) installation of a 6-foot high black vinyl-coated chain link fence, 2) compliance with the Planning Commissions site plan review condition of approval.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-040

345. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Miller to deny second reading and final adoption of PC-2004-021-a request to rezone nine parcels (2.2±acres) south side of Ecorse between Middlebelt and Farnum Roads, based on non-proof of ownership of all the properties from curcurent R1B Single Family Residential and C-2 General Business District to C-3 Highway Service, and from R1B Single Family Residential to C-2 General Business District.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion carried Unanimously.

05-041

4A. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of former Councilman Brooker Edwards.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-042

4B. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Romak to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Savilla Johnson.

Roll Call Vote Showing Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-043

4C. Motion by Wadsworth, supposed by Crova to adopt a resolution congratulating Ray and Loretta Renke on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Romak, supported by Prybyla to accept the Chairman’s Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-044

5A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Romak to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (“SMART”) Sales Agreement for the purchase of a 1997 Ford Bus in the amount of \$1.00.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-045

5B. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Miller to concur with the administration and grant authorization to purchase one additional Police K-9 Dog and its training and equipment under bid 04/05-12 Police K-9 Unit, Training and Equipment with K9 Academy Training Facility.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-046

5C. Motion by Crova, supported by Prybyla to introduce Budget Amendment 04/05-11:

FUND/DEPT.		CURRENT		AMENDED
ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	BUDGET	AMENDMENT	BUDGET
Motor Vehicle Fund				
<u>Expenditures</u>				
661-4410-744.74-78	Equipment Maintenance	129,101	50,000	179,101
<u>Retained Earnings</u>				
661-0000-395.00-00	Retained Earnings	AVAILABLE	APPORPRIATE	BALANCE
		1,649,534	(50,000)	1,599,534

To appropriate funds for additional vehicle repairs due to aging of current fleet (no new vehicles were put into service this year.)

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-047

5D. Motion by Miller, supported by Wadsworth to introduce Budget Amendment 04/05-12:

FUND/DEPT.		CURRENT		AMENDED
ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	BUDGET	AMENDMENT	BUDGET
General Fund				
<u>Expenditures</u>				
101-2990-729.93058	TransfersOut-Local St.	0	12,000	12,500
101-4110-741.74-83	Sidewalk Maintenance	39,000	(12,500)	26,500
<u>Revenues</u>				
101-3910-511.63-30	Sidewalk Maint. Charge	39,000	(12,500)	26,500

<u>Fund Balance</u>				
101-0000-390-00-00	Fund Balance	AVAILABLE	APPROPRIATE	BALANCE
		1,535,717	(12,500)	1,523,217

FUND/DEPT.		CURRENT		AMENDED
ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	BUDGET	AMENDMENT	BUDGET
Local streets				
<u>Expenditures</u>				
203-4310-743.77-71	Non-Motorized Improvement	0	12,500	12,500
<u>Revenues</u>				
203-0000-699.93-02	Transfers In-General Fund	0	12,500	12,500

To appropriate funds for mandated handicap curbcuts to comply with ADA requirements and eligible for Act 51 monies.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-048

6A1. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to concur with the Advisory Appointment Committee and make the following appointments and re-appointments to the Romulus Cable Telecommunications Commission: Appoint Margaret Leduc to a three-year term to expire January 27, 2008; Steven Mientkiewicz to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Delores Witzgall, term to expire February 7, 2006; Gerald Rohn, alternate, term to expire February 7, 2008; Jack Trumble, Alternate, term to expire February 7, 2008 and to re-appoint Helen Hay, term to expire June 5, 2007 and Joe Allen, term to expire June 5, 2007.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.





## Jumping for joy

Third graders at Barth Elementary School in Romulus jumped at the opportunity to raise money for heart disease research last week when several participated in the “Jump Rope for Heart” program. Sponsored by the American Heart Association, The program promotes the value of exercise, while creating awareness among young people about the importance of heart-healthy habits. This year, the students raised \$2,000. Pictured here in the first row (right to left) are: Jessica New, Bryan Badilla, Romel Bohler, Rachel LaPorte, Madison Tyree and Aprille Doktor. In the second row are Hunter Mason, Tyler Robertson, Chris Greca and Kevin Marz.

## Spring park activities on track

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

Spring parks and recreation programs are in full swing in Romulus.

Beginning next month, activities for families, singles and seniors will begin at various places in the city. The programs encompass athletics, wellness, martial arts, crafts, arts and music, said Kristen Irwin, the program director of Romulus Parks and Recreation.

“We try to base our programs on what has been popular in the past, and what the demand is,” she said.

“Youth programs seem to be the most popular among residents. Last year was the first year we

had middle school activities, and we’re currently planning another year of activities to give kids in that age group something to do.”

The middle school program consists of several field trips that offer fun – in safe and secure environment.

“Last year we went to the (Detroit) Science Center, movies, water parks and a few other places, and the kids really enjoyed it,” Irwin said.

This year, many programs and events will help keep children busy, Irwin said.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place the day before Easter at noon on Saturday, March 26 at the Elmer Johnson Park on Ozga Road. Individual hunts will take place in four different age categories. The event is planned for children between the ages of 3 and 8. Parents are asked to bring with them a bag to collect eggs. Photographs with the Easter Bunny will be avail-

able for \$2. Some of the eggs will contain special prizes.

Children looking to burn a little energy can join Tumblebunnies gymnastics class. The classes are open to both boys and girls. Students will learn some fundamental skills by using a variety of equipment, such as trampolines, balance beams, octagons, music, wedge mats, and the uneven bars, among others. The session runs from April 4 to May 23, and costs \$60. Pre-registration is required. The deadline to register is April 4.

The southern tradition of clog-

Contemporary Te Kwan Do classes continue from March 22 to May 26, and the deadline to register is March 21.

Both martial arts classes cost \$35 for the session for one individual, \$55 for the session for two immediate family members, \$75 for the session for three immediate family members.

Irwin said most of the classes and programs will take place at various schools throughout the community, but that this might be the last year the department has to plan programs around what is available. The city acquired the former Overhead Crane Co. facil-

ity at Wayne and Northline roads for \$1.9 million. That will house a new facility, where programs can expand.

“We’re really looking forward to it opening,” she

said. “It’s hard to put into words what it will do for us. We’ve wanted to host overnight events or midnight basketball. But we’ve always had to think about what facilities we should have these sorts of events at. But with our own facility, we will have more room and better facilities for new programs.”

Mayor Alan Lambert said a dedicated recreation facility is a first for the city. “A recreation center is something we’ve had to live without for some time, and we’ve been looking at this facility for about two months,” Lambert said. “Most cities have their own recreation facilities, and we want to offer people in Romulus the same opportunities people in other communities have.”

Anyone who would like to learn more about parks programs, or sign up for a class, can call the Romulus Parks and Recreation Department at (734) 942-6852.

## Grant will help teens with weighty issues

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

A clinic serving scores of students in Wayne County has received a \$125,000 grant to help young African American women cope with the growing possibility of obesity.

Starfish Family Services, an Inkster-based non-profit that operates the Teen Health Center at Inkster High School, is operating the SHAPE (Strong, Healthy and Physically Energized) program at the health center this summer. The Michigan Department of Community Health provided funding for the program.

Weight issues can be especially difficult for young women, who sometimes don’t have the resources required to deal with obesity. That’s why they could benefit from the SHAPE program, said Ouida G. Cash, the chief executive officer of Starfish Family Services.

“Starfish Family Services is proud of the work being done at the Inkster Teen Health Center,” she said. “We’re thankful to Inkster Public Schools, Oakwood Healthcare System, and the Michigan Department of Community Health for helping us to provide another needed service to at-risk youngsters in our community.”

Starfish will receive \$25,000

for the time period April 1 – Sept. 30, 2005, and two annual installments of \$50,000 – for a total of \$125,000 – over 30 months to administer the program, Cash said.

The SHAPE program is an after-school program that focuses on nutrition and exercise techniques. Teens who enroll in the program will receive a gift certificate to a local sporting goods store, a one-year pass to Wayne County Metro Park systems, and a one-year membership in the SHAPE UP program, which offers unlimited access to exercise programs taught at the clinic. A certified fitness instructor teaches the classes.

The new program is open to 60 teens with a body mass index of 25 or greater, Cash said. Teens can live anywhere in western Wayne County and take part in the program. The program is free of charge to all teens.

Obesity in all children – no matter what their race – is on the rise in the United States. The National Center for Health Statistics indicates that as many as 3 million children are obese.

The Inkster Teen Health Center is located inside Inkster High School, at 3250 Middlebelt Road (between Michigan Avenue and Carlyle Road). To learn more about the program, or to enroll, call the center toll-free at 1-877-262-8336.

## Wedding - Fundraiser helps animals

FROM PAGE 1

shelter, we’d be able to keep more animals longer.”

Mayor Alan Lambert, who officiated at the nuptials, said the wedding idea was creative, to say the least. “It is fun and different and something that residents in the Romulus community will come out to support, because it is such a worthy and deserving cause,” he said.

About 500 seniors and other interested parties packed the banquet room at the senior center for the wedding reception. When the wedding gifts were tallied, about \$1,700 dollars was raised,

said city spokeswoman Kathy Trent.

Wadsworth said that about \$100,000 in financial contributions and in-kind services and donations have been collected so far. He said many businesses and schools have helped out.

“Some kids at the school had a bake sale, and about five restaurants have contributed to the cause,” he said. “We still have a long way to go, but we’d really like to thank the businesses and people in the community that have helped us.”

Wadsworth estimated that it would take about \$250,000 to \$300,000 to build the shelter.

## Budget - Federal funds at risk

FROM PAGE 1

would take place in funds received after 2006. CDBG funding can be used for physical improvements on specific buildings or for neighborhood revitalization programs. The City of Romulus is slated to receive \$200,000 each year for the next 10 years to pay for the new recreation center, which the city hopes to break ground on later this year.

“I’m really hoping this fund doesn’t get cut because it does so much good,” Lambert said. “We might be able to fit into other programs once the (federal budget) is determined. The

DDA (Downtown Development Authority) has captured enough dollars to be able to take care of some of its debt.”

The city funded a new senior center and some building improvement projects with CDBG dollars in 2004 and 2005.

Lambert credits fiscal frugality as the reason the city has been able to weather budget storms. He said city expenses generally only increase about 1 percent each year.

City council members and city administrators will begin budget talks and schedule public hearing by May. The city must approve the budget by June 30.



# Reactions to proposed minimum wage are mixed

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

On the heels of an announcement that Gov. Jennifer Granholm will ask members of the state legislature to increase the minimum wage by \$2 per hour during a two-year period, local lawmakers are showing both concern and support for the measure.

State Rep. Dianne Byrum (D- Ingham County) is sponsoring a bill that would increase the minimum wage from the current federal level of \$5.15 per hour to \$7.15 per hour. It would be implemented gradually during two years. If approved, it would be the first increase in the Michigan minimum wage since 1996.

State Sen. Ray Basham (D-Taylor) said a raise is long overdue and would help people struggling with low wages.

"This is the right thing to do for a lot of reasons," he said. "I support it because I think that people who work should expect to earn a decent wage. What the bill is proposing would not make much of a difference to businesses, and it's still far below the rate of inflation."

Estimates from the U.S. Bureau of

Labor Statistics indicate that about 90,000 people in Michigan earn minimum wages, while another 400,000 earn slightly above the minimum wage or below \$7.15 per hour. That number represents about one in six workers in Michigan, according to the statistics. Most of these workers are employed in retail, clerical, restaurant, health care and light industrial positions, according to Dan Farough, a spokesman for Byrum.

But since Michigan is tied with Alaska for the highest unemployment rate in the United States, others said increasing the minimum wage now could further drain jobs from the state.

"I'm not saying that we should never consider doing this, but I don't think now would be a good time," said State Rep. Phil LaJoy (R-Canton). We need to do everything we can to encourage businesses to hire, and this could cause layoffs. I don't think we're trying to make light of what people who earn a modest wage are going through. But we're in dire straits here – we have the worse unemployment rate in the country, and I wouldn't want to do anything that might make it worse."

Some businesses are worried about the potential increase, said Oscar Rhotan, the owner of Metro Realty Group in Romulus.

"I think this might be the kind of thing that hurts small businesses or start-up businesses, and I think the raise is too minimal to really make a difference in the economy," he said. "The things we pay for – like utilities, food and clothing always seem to be going up. Last year I noticed my electric bill increased by 30 percent. I don't think people would make new, big purchases like a car. It's just not enough money for that. But it would stop some businesses from hiring people."

Fifteen states have recently adopted minimum wages higher than the federal level. According to the New York-based Fiscal Policy Institute, total employment in states that raised the minimum wage above the federal level saw an increase in employment of 6.1 percent from 1998 and 2004. States that held the line on the minimum wage saw an increase of 4.1 percent. A separate study by Princeton University economists David Card and Alan Krueger indicated that increasing the federal minimum wage

almost 10 years ago caused no measurable increase in the unemployment rate nationwide.

LaJoy said a better solution might be to create more training opportunities to help people out of minimum wage jobs, but Rhotan said he doesn't know where they would go.

"We're losing so many manufacturing jobs, and it's sad because we have people who could work those jobs that need a higher wage," he said.

State estimates indicate that about 70,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost due to productivity improvements and outsourcing.

"What we really need to look at are ways to even the playing field. We need to quit outsourcing our jobs," Rhotan said.

State Rep. Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D-Romulus) said he thinks the issue needs to be addressed at the state level, instead of waiting for the federal government to address the issue.

"It's pretty simple – if you work hard, you should be able to support the basic needs of your family," he said. "Right now, our federal minimum wage doesn't allow that."

## Belleville City Council OKs \$18,600 for new library consultant contract

The Belleville City Council approved an \$18,600 amendment recently to the 2004-2005 Library Operating Budget to provide funding for a library consultant.

According to City Manager Steve Walters, the consultant will evaluate library service and space needs in light of the grow-

ing community population.

In December, the Library Advisory Committee issued a request for proposals. A total of eight proposals were received, which committee members narrowed down to two firms for interviews. The Extra Edge was chosen to advise the library board on what steps should be

taken next in the process for a new library.

The Friends of the Library started plans for a new library in January and hope to see a new building and better funding to meet the community

needs in the future.

"I think it would be beneficial for the library to be centrally located in the community," said

Mayor Tom Fielder. "We hope to find that solution we've been advocating since this discussion started."

Continued from page 2

Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-049

6A2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to concur with the Advisory Appointment Committee and appoint the following to the Environmental Protection Board: Joseph Ozog, David Dick and Dale Justice, terms to expire February 7, 2008.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-050

6A3. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Romak to approve second reading and final adoption of Budget amendment 04/05-10 introduced at the meeting held January 24, 2005.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-051

6C1. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to grant authorization for the Mayor and Clerk to enter into agreement with Wayne County Airport Authority to Toll Statues of Limitations with reference to construction of the new DPW yard.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

11. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Romak to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda R. Choate, CMC  
City Clerk

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held February 7, 2005.

Linda R. Choate, CMC  
City Clerk

Publish: February 24, 2005

CITY OF ROMULUS

NOTICE 2005

BOARD OF REVIEW

To the taxpayers of the City of Romulus: The Board of Review will meet in the Romulus City Hall, (Lower Level) Community Room, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174 on the following dates and times by **APPOINTMENT ONLY** for the purpose of reviewing the assessment roll.

**Meeting dates are as follows:**

	<b>Residential</b>
March 14, 2005:	9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
March 15, 2005:	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
	<b>Commercial/Industrial</b>
March 16, 2005:	9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers are as follows:

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Ratio</b>	<b>Multiplier</b>
Commercial	50%	1.0000
Industrial	50%	1.0000
Residential	50%	1.0000
Developmental	50%	1.0000
Personal	50%	1.0000

**Review is by appointment only**

Residents and Non-Residents alike may appeal by (1) making an appointment to appear before the Board OR (2) in writing (personal appearance is not required). The Board of Review **MUST** receive all written appeals no later than March 16, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.

Property owners may appoint and authorize a representative to appear on their behalf. All Representatives or Agents **MUST** submit (current) proof of authorization to act on behalf of the property owner as a prerequisite to appeal to the Board of Review.

To schedule an appointment, please call City of Romulus, Department of Assessment at (734) 942-7520 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Publish: February 24, 2005



OPINION

A silver lining?

Just when it finally seemed like IKEA, the Swedish furniture retailer, would move into Canton Township a wrench has been thrown into the plans.

The store might not take up the vacant former Super Kmart on Ford and Haggerty roads after all because of an alleged dispute concerning a parking easement between the property owners.

Too bad.

We were not quite sold on the issue, either – we would have welcomed the addition to the Ford Road corridor of a business that would have some real staying power; as busy as Ford Road is, some national firms have had a difficult go of it there. On the other hand, we, like most of those who have to travel the roadway, were concerned about the traffic impact that such a huge regional attraction would bring. Still, plans were under way to help combat that and the store would be a big boon for the township.

It would be a shame if the project fell apart because of something as relatively simple as who would park where. Obviously, there could be competition aspects between the shop and the ABC Warehouse that is served by the same parking lot, but it seems like that competition could be beneficial to both stores – not to mention consumers.

Perhaps the project is not quite dead and maybe Canton officials can help ease the transition or provide some alternatives. They probably have a little time to do that, because finding an ideal alternative site may be a lengthy process. It took IKEA about two years, after all, to settle on the Canton location.

It's certain, though, that when officials from the store were scouting locations, Canton wasn't the only stop they made. It may not be that long before they settle on a plan B, and the township will be left with another vacant big box building. Since it's proven such a difficult thing to reuse those types of structures – in Canton, or anywhere else – that would be unfortunate.

The upside, though, is that there would be plenty of parking to go around.

Now here's a really bad plan

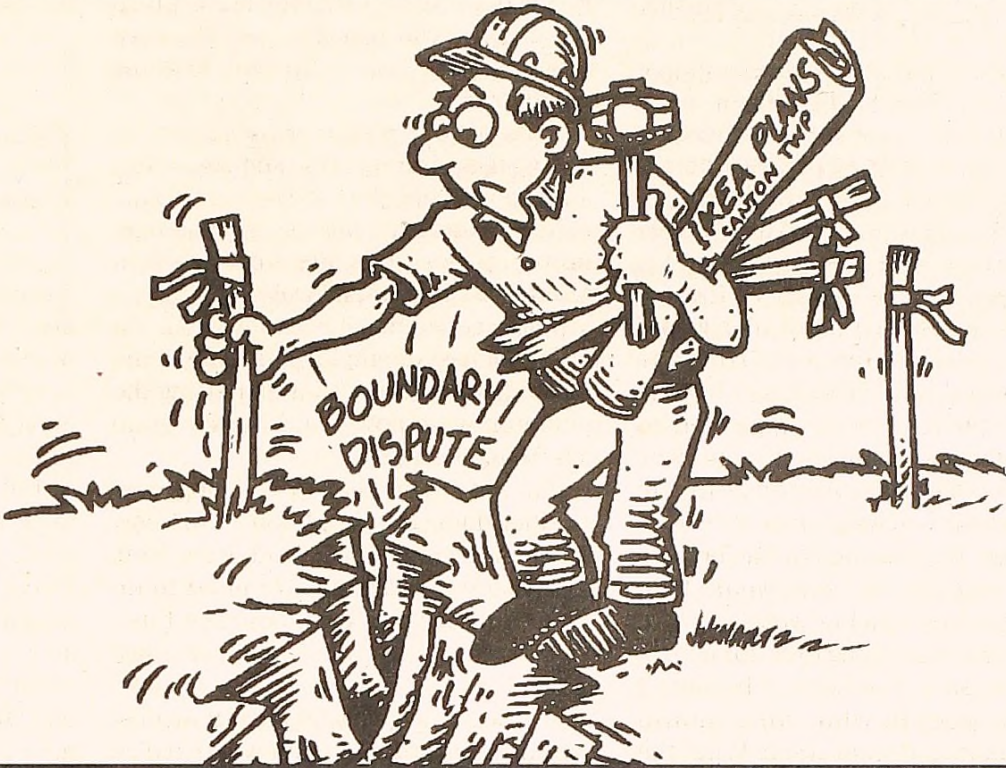
It must have come as a surprise to municipal officials to learn that the Community Block Development Grant program could be jeopardized.

Even those seasoned in the battle to keep revenues coming into their communities, knowledgeable about the shrinking pools of grant funds and the longer lines of applicants must have scratched their heads at that one.

The program, after all, works pretty well. Through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), it provides funds to help communities spark revitalization in low or moderate-income areas. It helps fund senior citizen programs and provide park improvements, to name a few. When funds are reduced, they go down across the board – no one community is penalized over another.

Yet, the federal budget proposed by President George W. Bush would change that. It would move the program under the umbrella of the Department of Commerce and combine it with about 17 other programs that would all compete for the same funding. That budget, by the way, is tentatively less than last year's federal budget for the CDBG program, alone.

The concept, to spark economic development, is a good one, but this isn't the way to accomplish it. The goal to push for more bricks and mortar projects rather than services doesn't make much sense, either. Those projects can be put off, as many officials in Michigan



Rolling along memory lane

There's an underutilized feature right here in the community that is slowly disappearing.

Blocked off, in some places, by cautionary signs and going to seed in others, the bike path along the I-275 freeway never quite reached its full potential and has been neglected for years.

Now, a number of groups are working together to try to revitalize the pathway. The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, the League of Michigan Bicyclists, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and others are trying to work collaboratively to secure grant funding from the Greenways Initiative – an arm of the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan – to fix up the path and make it viable again.

Sweet. I wish them luck.

The path is the backdrop of one my fondest – and worst – memories as a teen-ager. Bored on a summer afternoon, I decided to take my new Schwinn 10-speed on a ride from my Canton Township home down the path to see how far it went.

As it turns out, it went pretty far. It was late in the afternoon

when I decided that my curfew wouldn't allow me to fully satisfy my curiosity. I reluctantly turned around to make the long trip home when I heard a loud pop and a short hiss. My back tire had blown out and, jackass that I was, I didn't have any type of tire repair kit with me. A laid-back afternoon of biking had taken a suddenly dire twist. I was faced with the possibility of walking my bike back along the path.

In those days, Schwinns came with metal petals that had short spikes on either side; they were designed to grip shoe bottoms, I guess, but they looked more like the teeth of a James Bond villain. They had frequent contact with my shins and calves and soon I was uttering words no teen-ager should.

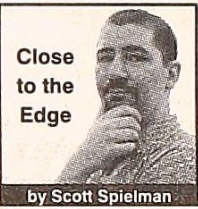
So then I figured I'd just prop it on my shoulder and carry it. Well, Schwinns back then weighed more than Toyotas do today, so that didn't work out well, either. As the sun set, I realized that I faced the prospect of a long, grueling walk home, only to find myself grounded when I got there. And I'd probably get a beating for making my parents worry, to boot. Great.

All that aside, though, I've always had a fondness for the path, and the concept of biking to places most people take cars to get to. Sure, I'm a lot busier now than I was when I was a kid but, given the choice, I'd rather use pedal power than engine power.

There are a lot of benefits to revitalizing the path, too. I doubt it will ever cause a decrease in the traffic along I-275 or anything like that, but it could provide a place for bikers to stretch their legs without worrying too much about vehicular traffic, another alternative for joggers, skaters and walkers, too. It connects to the paths on Hines Drive, too.

The Northville Township Board of Trustees approved a resolution last week supporting the effort and why not? It doesn't cost anything, and it will help bolster the pathway system they've been trying to put together for years.

I look forward to seeing the path become a viable feature again. And next time, I'll bring along a pump and some tire patches, just in case.



Memory can always be improved

In the minds of many, a failing memory in our golden years is as inevitable as the need for a healthy stretch in the seventh inning of a baseball game. But memory loss is not an inevitable consequence of a long life. In fact, aging is only one of many factors that can weaken our ability to remember things; so can stress, depression, cardiovascular problems and a wide range of other physical and emotional factors.

However, no matter what our age, there are things each of us can do that can help boost our powers of recall. If forgetfulness seems to be increasing, the following strategies may help.

Consult your physician. Remember: Always get a professional medical opinion.

Stay fit. Good nutrition, cardiovascular health and regular exercise help the heart pump blood, nutrients and oxygen to the brain.

Know your prescriptions. Keep an eye on your any reactions - and drug interactions - when taking new drugs or dosages. And check with your doctor. Tranquilizers, sleeping pills, antidepressants, some heart medications, and even some cold remedies, can affect your memory.

Get adequate rest. A sharp memory requires alertness.

Seek new challenges. Learn a new language, or how to use a computer or simply read something new and stimulating.

Most of all, remember to take care of your health before it's lon-

ngggg gone!

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 87, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years.

His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns titled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-245-5082.



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LETTERS

Resident blasts blight ordinance

To the editor;

After further open dialogue at the Romulus City Council meeting Jan. 24, 2005, I cannot in good conscience support the administration's blight ordinance.

Although the intent of the ordinance is to clean up the blight in the City of Romulus, which is long overdue and which I strongly support. The ordinance, in my personal opinion, as explained by the attending attorney and the mayor, creates a hearing tribunal, which could intimidate and threaten the civil rights of the citizens of Romulus. This type of legislation can only open the opportunity for future local governmental abuse.

The educational level of governmental operations for most residents is limited, and the lack of understanding governmental law is even greater. A hearing tribunal potentially consisting of the mayor, the building director, and a uniformed ordinance director will create an intimidating and threatening situation for most resi-

dents to confront.

I do not understand why city council would consider supporting an ordinance that jeopardizes the civil rights and allows the citizens to be placed in such a compromising and prejudiced situation of intimidation.

Personally, I cannot accept the opinion of attorneys who have based their recommendation, to city council, on other communities' actions. Neighboring communities' decisions not to adopt the Quality of Life House Bills is not a valid reason not to adopt these bills.

Other communities do not have the same stigma, the uncontrolled blight, and the stagnation that has hindered the growth in this community.

I encourage you NOT to support the present administration's legislation that allows the opportunity to be selectively enforced, intimidating, and threatening to the civil rights of citizens.

Leo Knasiak  
Romulus  
lknasiak@hotmail.com

Plan

FROM PAGE 5

know – they've been doing that for the past three years in an attempt to provide the same services for residents with less money. It's the services and the staff they're working to save. It also cuts off more upscale communities like Northville Township, where it's difficult to fin a low or moderate-income

area, but where the funds can still be used to fund senior citizen programs.

In fact, it's silly to propose a change in a program that works so well and benefits so many communities in so many different ways. It's why many municipalities and municipal lobbying groups have joined forces to fight the proposed change.

We hope they're successful. A change in the program would have dire consequences for communities already hurting for funds. A change like that just doesn't add up.

1954 PA 188 Proceedings  
Notice of Public Hearing on the Special Assessment Roll for  
Mission Pointe Subdivision Street Lighting  
Assessment District

Charter Township of Van Buren  
Wayne County, Michigan

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, OWNERS OF LAND WITHIN THE MISSION POINTE SUBDIVISION AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Supervisor and Treasurer of the Township has reported to the Township Board and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll prepared by the Township covering all properties within the Special Assessment District for the **Mission Pointe Subdivision** Street Lighting Assessment District benefited by the street lighting project. Said assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing a portion of the costs of the construction of the street lighting and work incidental thereto with the aforesaid **Mission Pointe Subdivision** Street Lighting Assessment District as more particularly shown on the plans by the DTE Energy Company on file with the Township Clerk at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, which assessment is in the total of \$83.28/ year.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Treasurer has further reported that the assessment against each and every parcel of land within said District, will be equal and the same for each and every lot in the Special Assessment District for the Mission Pointe Subdivision Street Lighting District.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Van Buren Township Board Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI on **March 1, 2005** for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll and hearing any objections thereto. Said roll may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours of regular business days until the time of said hearing and may further be examined at said hearing. Appearance and protest at the hearing held to confirm the special assessment roll is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

An owner of party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance or protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. (The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll.)

\*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations can be made available with advance notice.

Joannie D. Payne  
Township Clerk

Publish: February 24, 2005

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REALLY WORK.  
CALL 734-467-1900 TODAY TO PLACE YOUR AD !

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Van Buren Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler, Van Buren Township, MI 48111, on Wednesday March 23, 2005 to consider the following:

An Ordinance to amend Zoning Ordinance 6-2-92 as amended of the Charter Township of Van Buren to amend the following:

ARTICLE IV GENERAL PROVISIONS, SECTION 4.23 SIGNS.

The proposed text amendments include but are not limited to the following revisions: Definitions, signs in the Office Technology (OT) zoning district, regulations for LED Reader Board signs, construction and maintenance standards, and other types of commercial sign height and area.

A complete text of the proposed amendment will be available for review at the Township Department of Developmental Services Office. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date.

In spirit of compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, individuals with disability should fee free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: February 24, 2005

BOARD OF REVIEW - CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF  
VAN BUREN  
FOR 2005 ASSESSMENTS

NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS  
OF VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The **BOARD OF REVIEW** of the Charter Township of Van Buren will meet at the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, on the following dates:

March 8, Tuesday  
10:00 a.m. to 12 noon

March 14, Monday  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

March 15, Tuesday  
9:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

To review property assessments for 2005. Taxpayers/property owners may file an appeal of assessment(s) to the Board of Review in **WRITING** without personal appearance. **Letters of appeal must be received on or before March 16, 2005.**

Those taxpayers wishing to **appeal in person, please call the Township by March 14, 2005** at 734.699.8946 to set an **APPOINTMENT** to meet with the Board of Review on any of the above dates.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC  
Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: February 24, 2005

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Van Buren Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler, Van Buren Township, MI 48111, on Wednesday March 23, 2005 to consider the following:

An Ordinance to amend Zoning Ordinance 6-2-92 as amended of the Charter Township of Van Buren to amend the following:

ARTICLE IV GENERAL PROVISIONS, SECTION 4.14 ACCESSORY  
STRUCTURES AND USES.

The proposed text amendments include but are not limited to the following revisions: Definitions, building setbacks, height roof pitch, and other types of accessory buildings and structures.

A complete text of the proposed amendment will be available for review at the Township Department of Developmental Services Office. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date.

In spirit of compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, individuals with disability should fee free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: February 24, 2005



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 15, 2005

Supervisor King called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor King, Clerk Payne, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Herman, Trustee Jahr and Trustee Rochowiak. Absent and excused: None. Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Director Kelley, Public Safety Director Champagne, Recreation and Facilities Director Ross, Environmental Director Swallow, Water and Sewer Director Duha, Planning and Zoning Administrator Pugsley, Executive Assistant Ireland, Secretary Cline and an audience of sixteen (16).

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Payne moved, Budd seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Budd moved, Hart seconded to open the public hearing to present and discuss possible projects for the fiscal year 2005 – 2006 Community Development Block Grant Program. Carried.

Supervisor King opened the public hearing and went to Planning and Zoning Administrator Pugsley for an explanation. Administrator Pugsley stated this is the second of two public hearings regarding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Administrator Pugsley stated the three national objectives for projects are: to benefit low/moderate income persons, prevent or eliminate slum and/or blight and to meet urgent community needs. The total funding for the fiscal year 2005-2006 is \$177,000. The list of proposed projects to be funded are: \$27,000 for American's with Disabilities Act (handicapped swings); \$22,800 for Public Services (camp programs for low/moderate income families); \$51,800 for Senior Services (Senior Center Administrator and handicapped accessible van); \$50,000 for Housing Rehabilitation (County wide program for low/moderate income families); \$12,700 for Planning (Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Land Use Master Plan); and \$12,700 for Program Administration. Supervisor King stated this is the second public hearing and the legal advertisement for this public hearing listed the proposed projects and at the Work Study Session it was discussed to change under Public Services a line item for the Goodfellows Program to low/moderate income families. Also, these are some of the last Federal dollars that do come back to local communities.

Board members made the following comments: The proposed project list will be approved by Wayne County as appropriate and Board approval would be needed again if any changes are necessary in allocations.

An audience member inquired if the Goodfellows Group would receive money and an update on Habitat for Humanity location? Supervisor King stated Goodfellows helps low/moderate income families which would meet part of the guidelines from the Housing of Urban Development (HUD) to fund projects that benefit low/moderate income families. The township has not been notified of the location for the Habitat for Humanity project.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing.

Herman moved, Hart seconded to close the public hearing. Carried.

Hart moved, Payne seconded to open the public hearing to consider Special Use request from Frank Ziegler to construct and operate a recreational vehicle storage yard on a 4.47 acre parcel numbers V125-83-003-99-0012-000 and V125-83-003-99-0013-000, zoned M-1 (Light Industrial) and located on the east side of Haggerty Road between Ecorse and Van Born Roads. Carried.

Supervisor King opened the public hearing and went to Planning and Zoning Administrator Pugsley for an explanation. Administrator Pugsley introduced representatives of the proposed development. Representatives stated they had read the review letters from McKenna and Associates, Wade-Trim and the Planning Commission Minutes and gave a brief presentation of the proposed project as follows: The site is comprised of 4.8 acres of land with 2.4 acres of pavement, 1.5 acres of open space and .5 acres of detention pond. This project is to be constructed in three phases with phase one being adjacent to Haggerty Road. This industrial zoned property has double frontage along Haggerty Road and I-275. The following are to conform with the Corridor's Plan requirements: an offset entrance on Haggerty Road, to increase curb appeal; substantial landscaping along the I-275 corridor; decorative fencing at entrance on Haggerty Road; decorative fencing with a sequence of landscaping at I-275 side; increase in landscaping on the south side; installation of all southern landscaping with phase one of the project; and guarantee to complete the northern landscaping within two years from the beginning of construction.

Board members made the following comments and questions: Will the fence surrounding the entire development be built during phase one? The developer stated there will be a fence around the entire site with decorative fencing on the I-275 and Haggerty Road sides. The south side will be completed in phase one with increased height of landscaping due to the concern of an adjacent resident to better conceal the site. The lighting within the site is down lighting and is motion detected. The hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the summer and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the winter and will be noted on the site plan. The facility is only for recreational vehicles. What does the applicant believe is timely replacement of dead trees? Replacement should take place within the same year. There is a need for recreational storage in the township. The applicant stated they have met with township staff and consultants five times before they went before the Planning Commission and have met every request that was made. Director Champagne inquired about the size of the lanes and raised public safety emergency issues. The representative stated the lanes are 25 foot wide and emergency vehicles could use both lanes regardless of lane direction. Supervisor King stated as part of the site plan review the Fire Department would sign off on the project. Director Kelley clarified this request is for a special land use approval and would go before the Planning Commission for final site plan approval where these issues could be addressed.

An audience member commented on his hope this would look decent from I-275. A representative stated this had been addressed with decorative fencing and three layers of landscaping. A board member stated this would be an improvement to the current condition of the site.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing.

Hart moved, Jahr seconded to close the public hearing. Carried.

Budd moved, Herman seconded to open the public hearing to consider Special Use request to construct and operate a second drive-thru window at the existing CVS Pharmacy located at the northeast corner of Belleville Road and the North Service Drive encompassing a portion of parcel number V125-83-059-01-0011-002. Carried.

Supervisor King opened the public hearing and went to Planning and Zoning Administrator Pugsley for an explanation. Administrator Pugsley stated the Planning Commission held a public hearing and is recommending this special use approval request for a second drive-thru window to be served by a pneumatic tube, similar to what is used at drive-thru banks. Supervisor King stated the Planning Commission Minutes reflect several residents who were in favor of a second drive-thru window to prevent the stacking of vehicles. Trustee Herman stated there were two conditions before a final site plan approval recommendation by the Planning Commission as follows: 1) The timing of the reader board sign to be greater than a ten second interval and to be noted on the site plan. 2) To extend a handicap parking by adding one for a van. Further he stated there were no objections from the audience during the Planning Commission's public hearing. Supervisor King stated Van Buren Township's CVS Pharmacy is one of the top 50 producing stores nationally. Trustee Herman inquired if the noise levels are within the required levels? Administrator Pugsley stated the dB readings are within the requirements of the ordinance.

There were no comments or questions from the audience.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing.

Payne moved, Budd seconded to close the public hearing. Carried.

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to open the public hearing to receive public comment on the Special Land Use request by Group Ten Management to develop and construct a Planned Residential Development (PRD) on approximately 41 acres of land presently known as Pine Creek Golf Course, 50521 West Huron River Drive, parcel number V125-83-118-99-0007-712. Carried.

Supervisor King opened the public hearing stating there will only be the public hearing portion and no action will be taken on this item tonight. Supervisor King went to Director Kelley for an explanation. Director Kelley introduced a representative of the development who gave a brief presentation of the proposed project as follows: Currently Pine Creek Golf Course is a 41 acre parcel zoned R1-A and under conventional zoning would allow for 66 single family home sites while the PRD would allow for 85 sites the proposed development is for 72 sites. Some unique features of the site plan are as follows: preserves 78 percent of trees including several substantial tree stands; preserves the natural water feature; pedestrian path system; and an open park area. At the Planning Commission Meeting most of the comments were regarding traffic issues. The representative has meet with Wayne County for assistance in the traffic issue. A traffic study was done on West Huron River Drive by the county and the results were 85 percent of the drivers speed and due to state law would not allow for a reduction in the speed limit. Further, a collaborated traffic study with the township's traffic consultant and the developers came up with a left turn lane. Wayne County will not accept this traffic solution. Lastly the developer has been working with the county for approximately seven months trying to create a plan to improve the traffic issue on West Huron River Drive.

Supervisor King stated it does take a great deal of time to go through the site plan process. Director Kelley stated traffic is an issue and the plan includes a connection to Bog Road and only to be used for fire and police emergencies. This is a variation on the ordinance after comments made during Planning Commission public hearings in regard to the potential impact to the character of the area. Director Kelley continued stating this development meets the PRD's six requirements to be eligible to be considered by the township as follows: 1) Concept. To preserve most of the existing trees and wetlands. 2) Benefit. High quality of housing design and value with site amenities such as pedestrian ways, pavilion/gazebo and the protection of almost 80 percent of the existing trees as well as new landscaping features. 3) Size. The ordinance requires at least 15 acres this site has 41 acres. 4) Public services. The Township engineer confirmed that there are adequate available public services. 5) Master plan. The proposed development does not conflict with the Township Master Plan. 6) Economic impact. The proposed development will serve the housing needs of the Township. The significant attributes of this PRD are as follows: The project preserves substantial tree rows and tree stands, landmark trees and wetlands; 34 percent of the total site area will be maintained as common area with amenities including park areas, paved walking paths and a gazebo; similar to developments in the area, with a 10' wide asphalt bicycle/walking path throughout the site and along West Huron River Drive per the Township's Greenway Master Plan; the residential dwellings are all detached; approximately 80 trees will be planted within the West Huron River Drive view shed; the existing water body will be enhanced; the county drain on the western edge of the site will be maintained; amenities will be constructed to encourage pedestrian use; the underlying density would allow 66 homes, 85 units could be developed if the PRD density bonus was maximized, and the development proposes 72 units or a 9.1 percent increase in density. Supervisor King stated there has been significant input from residents and agrees the traffic condition on West Huron River Drive is a key topic.

Board members made the following comments and questions: The original concept plan was for multiple family use. These homes will be different than any other in the township in how the lots are laid out. The PRD is a contract between township and the developer and the agreement permanently preserving the open space clause. The PRD is a sound planning tool to allow a developer to utilize the property in a way that is beneficial to the perspective residents and the community as a whole by preserving open space with a bonus offered in density up to 30 percent. Concerns were voiced regarding density increases especially on West Huron River Drive, however; there are advantages of using a PRD on this site noting only an increased density of six houses. Director Kelley explained this PRD is a true Condominium where the Association maintains all of the outside amenities such as mowing grass and snow removal.

Director Kelley stated if the Board acts favorably on the PRD special use at a future



## Continued from page 7

Board meeting the next step would be the PRD agreement would go back to the Planning Commission for further details and revision with a recommendation to the Board to either approve or deny the PRD agreement; and if the Board acts favorable on the PRD agreement it would go back to the Planning Commission for final site plan approval. Director Kelley reviewed the Planning Commission recommendations on the traffic issues as follows: There were two public hearings held at the Planning Commission with much public input on traffic on West Huron River Drive and the impact of character on Bog Road. The recommendation was for the Bog Road connection to be barricaded and only used for emergencies. On West Huron River Drive an advisory speed sign of 35 M.P.H. and a sign with flashing lights to make drivers aware of the entrance to the subdivision. What would prevent the homeowner's at a later date to change this from a PRD to regular subdivision? Director Kelley stated the jurisdiction the township has in the PRD are those that pertain to the zoning ordinance and the collection of monies. The condominium law is a democratic body and allows for amendments and changes in its by-laws. All of the dimensional requirements for setbacks for houses will stay as they are proposed on the application and in the PRD agreement. Do we meet the ordinance requirements by making the connection to Bog Road? Director Kelley stated yes. Do we meet the ordinance requirement if there is the connection with a gate at Bog Road? Director Kelley stated it would be a modification from the ordinance which the township has the right to grant. Several Board members made comments on having the Bog Road connection made due to the traffic concerns on West Huron River Drive and are requesting feedback from residents. The representative of the development stated that Wayne County believes the traffic issue is a law enforcement issue because of the speeding. The representative does not believe that is the answer to the problem and has a plan that includes a connection to Bog Road.

A resident stated the Bog Road connection should be made for safety reasons.

Additional board member comments were as follows. There are other new developments that have increased the traffic on West Huron River Drive. The scope of the traffic issue is bigger than just West Huron River Drive. Township staff and Wayne County are looking at road improvements at the intersection of Rawsonville Road and Bog Road, Bog Road, Hoeft Road and Elwell Road. Supervisor King reiterated this public hearing was to present this project with no action to be taken by the board tonight and there is additional time for study and deliberation on this matter.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing.

Hart moved, Payne seconded to close the public hearing. Carried.

Payne moved, Herman seconded to open the public hearing to consider establishing a Street Lighting Special Assessment District to install street lights in the Mission Pointe Subdivision. Carried.

Supervisor King opened the public hearing and went to Director Kelley for an explanation. Director Kelley stated this is a program DTE Energy Company provides that is used to install and maintain street lighting. This is the first of two actions by the Board of Trustees to establish a Special Assessment District for installing and maintaining overhead street lighting in the Mission Pointe Development. This is an option available to developments in the township where DTE Energy will install and maintain overhead street lighting and the homeowners are billed annually. This public hearing is to approve the Special Assessment District area and a second public hearing will be held upon approval of the SAD to approve spreading the special assessment to the tax roll. The Township uses the special assessment process to provide a method to collect payment for street lighting via the property tax bill. The initial capital outlay will be \$40,665.53 to be paid by the developer. The initial annual cost of \$12,991.80 is to be spread among the 156 homes with an annual cost of \$82.75 per lot to be paid by the homeowners.

A resident of Mission Pointe inquired about the details of the street light plan. Supervisor King stated the township has the map showing where the forty-seven (47) 100 Watt High-Pressure Sodium Vapor Underground Ornamental Street Lights are to be installed. Director Kelley stated detailed information regarding the SAD will be mailed to residents within the district notifying them of a public hearing on the spreading of the special assessment roll if this SAD is approved by the board tonight. The zoning ordinance requires (as part of the site plan) street lights to be installed in subdivisions.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing.

Budd moved, Payne seconded to close the public hearing. Carried.

**MINUTES:** Rochowiak moved, Jahr seconded to approve the Work Study Session Minutes of January 31, 2005 as presented. Carried.

Herman moved, Budd seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2005 as presented. Carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Supervisor King read the State of the Township into the record.

Supervisor King called for a ten minute recess at 9:35 p.m. Meeting reconvened at 10:35 p.m.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Herman moved, Jahr seconded to approve the second reading for adoption of Ordinance 02-01-05 to amend the Township Zoning Map, a part of Ordinance, 6-2-92, as amended to rezone parcels of land V125-83-059-01-0020-000, V125-83-059-01-0021-000, V125-83-059-01-0022-000 and V125-83-059-0023-000 from R-1B Single Family Residential to C-1 General Business, per the facts and findings of the Planning Commission and the recommendation of the Township Planning Consultant in their letter dated December 3, 2004, specifically noting that: the proposed C-1 zoning is consistent with the Master Plan; the proposed C-1 zoning would permit uses compatible with existing land uses to the west and south; and rezoning the parcels would not create unplanned or spot zoned parcels of land, and the request is consistent with the Township's Master Plan. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Hart, Rochowiak, Payne, Jahr, Budd, Herman and King. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

\*(A copy of the Ordinance 02-01-05 follows the minutes. Copies may also be obtained in the Clerk's Office, Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road during normal business hours.)

**NEW BUSINESS:** Jahr moved, Budd seconded to approve the proposed projects for Community Development Block Grant funding for the fiscal year 2005 – 2006 in the proposed amount of \$177,000. Carried.

Hart moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the Special Use request by Frank Ziegler to operate an open air – outdoor storage facility for recreational vehicles, boats and campers with a manager's office/residence building on-site on 4.47 acres parcels V125-83-003-99-0012-000 and V125-83-003-99-0013-000 on Haggerty Road subject to: 1) McKenna's Special Land Use review letter dated December 2, 2004. 2) Wade-Trim's review letter dated November 30, 2004. 3) All landscaping height information to be presented by staff to the Planning Commission prior to final site plan approval. Carried.

Jahr moved, Herman seconded to approve the Special Use Approval to construct a second drive-thru window at the CVS Pharmacy located at 10915 Belleville Road subject to the two (2) conditions identified in McKenna Associates review letter dated January 6, 2005 and that the timing of the change of the reader sign be greater than a ten second interval and noted on the final site plan. Carried.

Rochowiak moved, Herman seconded to adopt Resolution 2005-05 approving Wade-Trim Billing Rate Schedule Number 2005A, as an amendment to the existing contract for general engineering service with equipment billed separately, and also establishes billing rates charged for private developments, effective January 1, 2005. Carried.

Payne moved, Budd seconded to adopt Resolution 2005-06 the Purchasing Policy with a change under "Credit Cards" the last sentence to read "Credit card privileges are subject to revocation at anytime". Carried.

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to adopt Resolution 2005-07 to establish a Special Assessment District (SAD) for the purpose of installing and maintaining streetlights in the Mission Pointe Subdivision. Carried.

Rochowiak moved, Jahr seconded to adopt Resolution 2005-08 the grant application for new optical scan voting system and related Election Management System (EMS) software. Carried.

Payne moved, Budd seconded to approve the reappointment of James Beck and the appointments of Dorothy King and Vera Ireland to the September Days Senior Citizens Endowment Committee with terms to expire January 15, 2007. Carried.

Payne moved, Hart seconded to approve the appointment of G. Frank Bellomo from alternate to regular member with term to expire February 28, 2007, the reappointment of George Craven to fill the alternate position with term to expire February 28, 2006 and the appointment of Robert Coppock to the Construction Code Appeals Board with term to expire February 28, 2008. Carried.

Budd moved, Herman seconded to approve the reappointments of Kurt Atchinson, Joe Ferris and Sophie Zoller to the Downtown Development Authority with terms to expire March 3, 2009. Carried.

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to approve the reappointments of Karren Glass, Robert McKenna and alternate Tom Kryza to the Board of Zoning Appeals with terms to expire December 1, 2007. Carried.

Payne moved, Budd seconded to approve the appointment of Lynette Jordan to the Board of Review with term to expire December 31, 2006. Carried.

Payne moved, Hart seconded to approve the reappointments of Joy Ann Ferris, Ken Askew, Beverly Jenkins, Loretta Speaks, Keith Johnston and Bob Thorne to the Recreation Committee and continue the appointment of Ken Askew to the Open Space Committee as the Recreation Committee Representative with terms to expire on February 28, 2006. Carried.

Hart moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the amended Library 2004-2005 Budget by using Fund Balance to cover the cost of the consultant. Carried.

Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve designating the Supervisor and/or Clerk as the authorized officials to sign permits for the Department of Transportation and to adopt Resolution 2005-09 the Performance Resolution. Carried.

Hart moved, Payne seconded to approve the Wade-Trim proposal to update and correct the Geographic Information System (GIS) Parcel Base Map in an amount not to exceed \$77,000 and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Carried.

Rochowiak moved, Payne seconded to authorize the Water and Sewer Director to negotiate the scope of work, and to approve a contract with Wade-Trim to perform the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project, Round VI-Part "A" Grant Program for Control of Combined and Sanitary Sewer Overflows Grant Agreement for the Wet Weather Sanitary Flow Metering and Analysis (RVIA-04) on a time-and materials basis, using Rate Schedule 2005A, in amount not to exceed \$150,100. Carried.

**VOUCHER LIST:** Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the February 15, 2005 voucher list as presented. Carried.

**REPORTS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Supervisor King reviewed the results of January questions regarding the Public Safety Department posted on the township's website [www.van-buren-mi.org](http://www.van-buren-mi.org).

Township Administrative offices will be closed on Monday, February 21st in observance of Presidents' Day.

Continued on page 13



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# SPORTS

## Belleville eases by Willow Run, readies for Romulus rematch

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

As the basketball season winds down, the Belleville Tigers don't show any signs of wearing down.

They stacked up two more convincing victories last week to give them a six-game win streak since their loss to Romulus at the end of January.

On Friday night, they trounced Ypsilanti Willow Run, 90-72.

Belleville had five players reach double figures. Junior forward Leon Freeman led the assault with 21 points, 10 rebounds and four assists. Senior guard Josh Samarco added 20 points and four assists, while senior guard Anre Partee and junior forward Tommie Clark each added 12. Partee also had eight assists and Clark nabbed six rebounds. Carlos Clark hit for 10.

Samarco put the Tigers on the board first with a triple in the opening seconds, but Willow Run's Devaughn Marks answered with his own three-pointer to

knot things up. Freeman scored on an alley-oop to regain the lead. Ypsi's Nate Brown scored on a put back, which gave the Flyers their first and only lead of the game, 6-5, at the halfway mark of the first quarter. Belleville

**"**  
*We played a good second quarter, after the first four minutes. We played solid defense and solid offense the first half.*  
**"**

**Belleville Coach  
Mike Krogel**

regained the lead, punctuated by Tommie Clark's slam dunk.

From there, Belleville outscored Willow Run, 16-7, for a 21-13 lead.

Belleville started the second frame with a 12-0 run that gave them a commanding lead, 33-13.

Jarred Williams ended the run with a double, but Belleville stayed on track and finished the half with a 44-23 advantage.

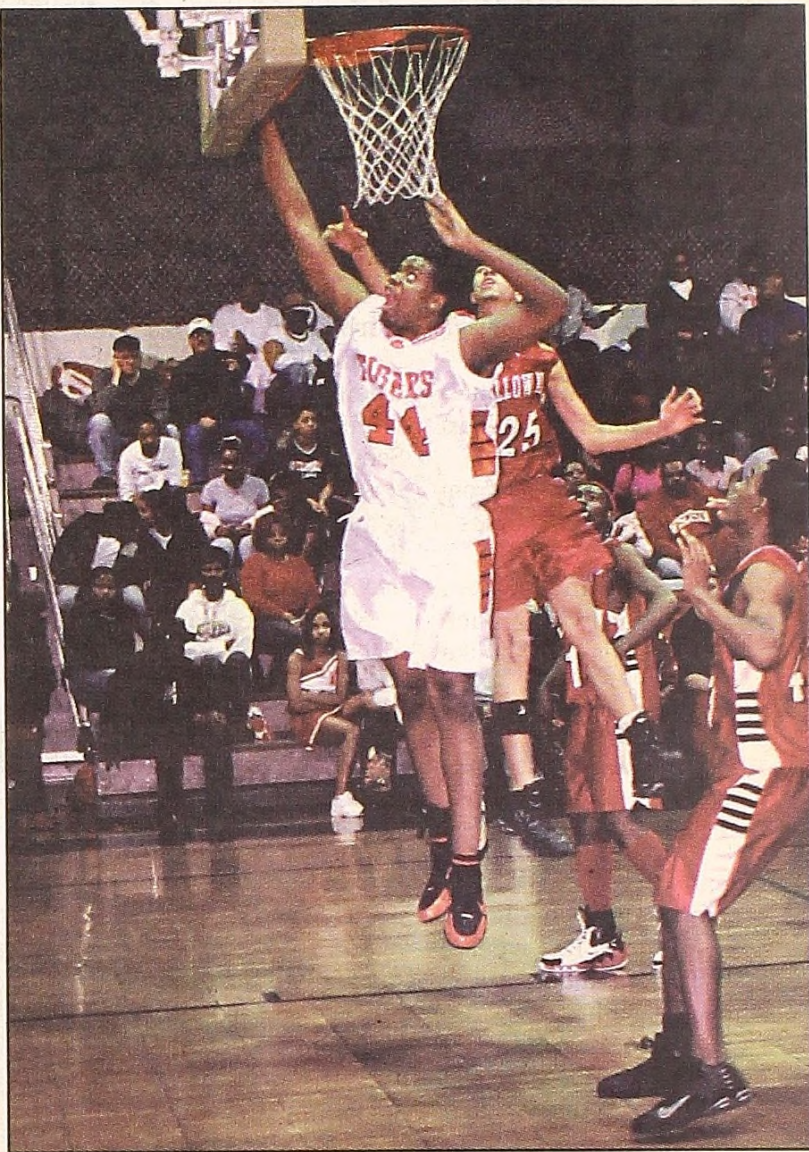
Willow Run found their offense in the second half, where they scored 49 of their points - 24 in the third and 25 in the fourth. TJ. Thomson and Brown led the surge with 11 points each for the Flyers, but they couldn't surmount the first-half deficit.

The Tigers scored 22 and 24 points in the third and fourth quarters, respectively. The 90 points was a season high for the Tigers.

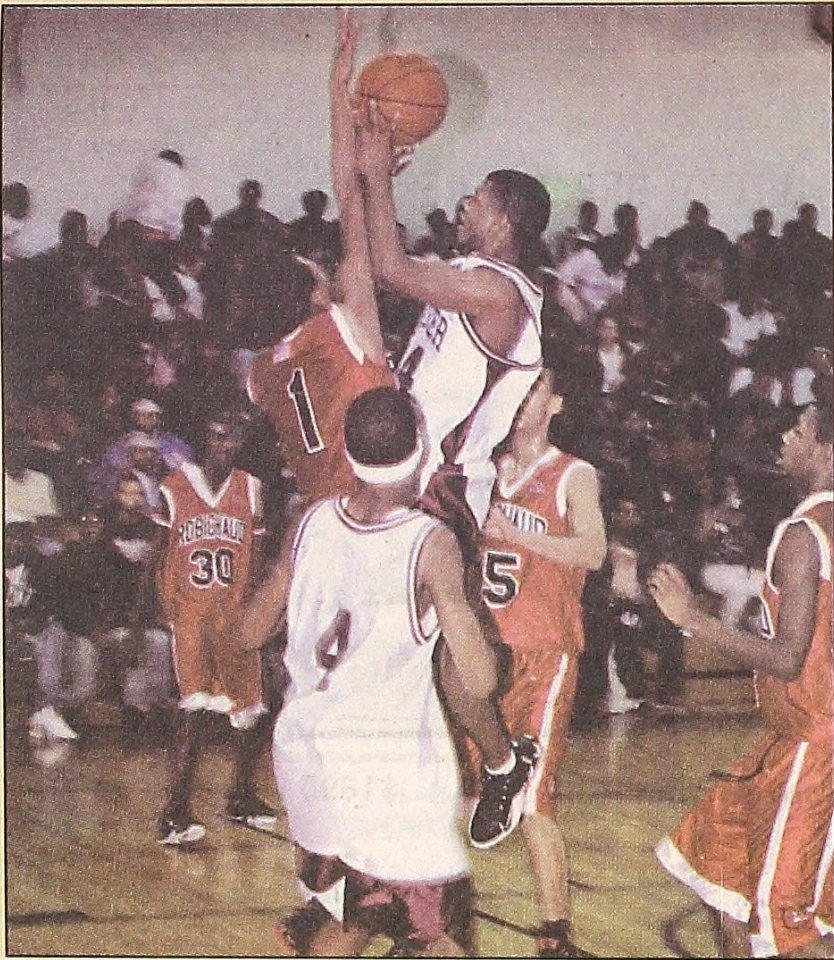
"We played a good second quarter, after the first four minutes," said Belleville Coach Mike Krogel. "We played solid defense and solid offense in the first half."

"We scored a lot in the second half but we allowed them a lot of points; some call it a run and shoot game - I call it a dog and pony show," he added. "Willow Run had a lot of second chances."

See **Tigers**, page 12



Belleville's Mike Gibson (44) makes a lay-up in the Tigers' 90-72 thumping of the Willow run Flyers on Friday night. Willow Run's Jarred Williams (25) defends.



### Vikings split week

It came down to the last second, but Dearborn Heights Robichaud pulled out a one-point victory in the final seconds against the Inkster Vikings on Friday night. Robichaud junior Venzel Russell hit a lay-up with 1.2 seconds left in regulation to defeat Inkster, 69-68. Aaron Crump led the Bulldogs with 24 while Russell finished with 19. J.J. Snelling led Inkster with 18 and Antonio Green added 14.

The Vikings overcame Highland Park last Tuesday for a 46-42 victory. Freshman guard Alphonso Lewis led the efforts with 11 points. Inkster (9-9) will host Woodhaven (7-11) at 7 p.m. tomorrow night.

## Canton topples Wayne in conference semi-final

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

The Canton Chiefs continue to impress on the hardwood.

They made their way into the Western Lakes conference tournament championship game against Walled Lake Central. They did so with a giant, 63-53, victory against Walled Lake Western on Tuesday and a huge, 65-49, upset at Wayne on Friday night.

"We're feeling pretty confident right now," said Canton Coach Charlie Paye.

They should, because their winning-streak increased to seven straight games.

Canton lost to Wayne earlier in the season in part due to Gene Nix, who thrashed them for 20 points. However, that wasn't the case this time.

Nix scored eight of his 10 in the first quarter but Canton tightened up the defense and held him to just two the rest of the way. Senior center Kevin Thornton was the difference in the game, according to Paye.

"I told Thornton 'you have to play Nix even,' and he did," he said. "He controlled Nix after the first. (Danny) Walsh still got his 18, but he had to work hard for it."

The kids just came out and played a solid four-quarter game, which they've been doing lately."

Senior guards David Calille, Andy Cortellini and Jason Houdek scored 19, 17 and 10 respectively.

"When those three guards start scoring it really opens things up for us," Paye said. Canton has also been handling the ball better and only turned the ball over eight times in the game.

The first quarter was a close one but Canton pulled ahead, 17-15. Once they controlled Nix and the rest of the

offense, Canton extended their lead to 28-25 at the half. They continued their solid play in the third, where they outscored the Zebras 17-10 for a 35-25 lead. Canton then had their best offensive quarter with 20 points, which put the game away, 65-49.

"This was probably our best win of the season," Paye said.

The Chiefs also played four solid quarters against Walled Lake Western last Tuesday in Walled Lake. They walked away with a 10-point victory, 63-53.

Again the trio of guards - Calille, Houdek and Cortellini - lead the team with 19, 12 and 11

See **Chiefs**, page 12

## Canton Chief grapplers win first district title

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

All season the Canton Chiefs varsity wrestling team have surpassed expectations and set new records.

They did it again.

Last Wednesday the Chiefs did something never done before by a Canton wrestling team: they won the team district competition for the first time in the school's 33 years of existence. They beat

Salem 41-22 to reach the milestone.

Last month they set a new school record for most wins in a single season with a victory against neighboring rivals Plymouth.

In order to face the Salem Rocks they first had to get by Livonia Churchill, ranked sixth in the state.

Canton lead 34-22 with one match to go, but Canton Coach Casey Randolph forfeited the 152-

pound match in order to save wrestler Marwan Faraj for the next match against Salem. Canton still won the match-up 34-28.

The strategy worked for Canton. Faraj went on to defeat Val Guy, 9-5, which helped secure the district title.

Against Churchil, Canton received a huge win from Alex Amberg at the 160-pound weight class, where he defeated John

See **Wrestling**, page 12



# Mustangs basketball finds rhythm, beats Western

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

With the district tournament creeping up, the Northville Mustangs basketball team is still trying to find their groove. They split their games in the Western Lakes conference tournament last week, but showed flashes of brilliance as they ready to host the district tournament next week. On Friday, they pulled out a 57-50 victory against the Walled Lake Western Warriors. Western was tremendous from the perimeter, hitting 13 triples – five of them in the fourth. “They were hitting a ton of threes,” said Northville Coach Darrel Schumacher. “It’s not like

we didn’t defend against them. They just stepped back further and kept hitting them.” Western’s Russ Young hit four of the five in the fourth to lead his team with 15. Northville managed six triples in the victory. Junior Chris Lorente hit for three of them. In the first quarter senior J.D. Gerblich got things going for Northville. He hit six of his team-leading 16 in the quarter. “He really got us going,” Schumacher said. “He was really hustling out there, scoring and getting rebounds. It was probably the first time we out-rebounded a team this season.” Northville took a 16-9 lead after the first period of play.

Lorente got things going in the second with a couple of three-pointers. He ended the night with 14 points. Western kept pace with Northville and matched their 16 points in the second frame. The Mustangs clung to a 32-25 halftime advantage, though. Things were slow moving on both sides in the third. Northville only put up 10 points to Western’s five for a 42-30 game. It was the fourth quarter where Young and the rest of the Warriors were dropping threes in the bucket. They outscored the ‘Stangs 20-15 in the final session but the early lead was enough for Northville to corral the victory, 57-50. “I’m proud of the way the kids

are playing,” Schumacher said. “It’s exactly the way they should be.” Sophomore Alvin Storrs added 12 in the win. In the first round of the conference tournament, Northville kept it close against the regular-season conference champions, the Wayne Memorial Zebras. Seniors Danny Walsh, Gene Nix combined for 27 points, 15 and 12 respectively, and sophomore Rodrick Walker also added 12 for Wayne to pull out a 53-49 victory. “The kids hung in there no matter what was dealt to them,” Schumacher said. “It was a good high school game; both teams played hard.” Fouls hurt the ‘Stangs, espe-

cially down the stretch, which allowed the Zebras to catch up, Schumacher said. All in all, they racked up 24 fouls in the game. Northville led through most of the game but, with about 4:00 remaining, Wayne started to make their shots from the line. And with 1:30 left to play they took the lead for good, Schumacher said. Gerblich led the team with 19 while Jameson and Storrs each added nine. The tournament finished up this week. Now the Mustangs need to prepare for the district tournament next week. They will have a tall order to fill when they face Canton in the first round. The game is set for 7:00 p.m. on Monday in Northville.

# Canton hockey knots cross-campus rivals, Salem, Plymouth

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

The Canton Chiefs battled to two ties on the ice last week – both against cross-campus rivals Salem and Plymouth. On Saturday they couldn’t hold on to an early one-goal lead as they tied the Wildcats, 2-2. Canton may have out shot Plymouth 37-14, but all that mattered was what ended up on the other side of the goal line. Canton’s scoring leader and co-captain Reece McCabe lit up the scoreboard first for the 1-0

lead. Senior defenseman Mike Kondratec and senior forward Paul Stevens assisted on the play. It was McCabe’s 28th goal of the season. Late in the period Plymouth’s junior forward, John Knoerl, from junior forward Mike Barile and Jason O’Guinn, knotted things up, 1-1. Plymouth took the lead when sophomore forward Nick Rosochacki put one past Canton’s goalie, Jon Bonham, in the second session. Sophomore defenseman Mike Manner, along with junior forward and captain Ryan

Stamm, notched the assists. Kondratec, from senior defenseman Pat Davison, evened things up at 2 when he knocked a power-play goal by Plymouth’s sophomore goalie Justin Desilets at the bottom of the second. The third period remained scoreless and the teams walked away knotted, 2-2. Canton couldn’t hang on to their one-goal lead against Salem earlier in the week, either. Salem’s goal with less than a second left in the contest, tied the game up, 3-3. Kondratec gave the Chiefs the

early lead with a score in the first period, but Salem came back with two goals in the second to make it a 2-1 game. Canton regained control when they scored two goals in the third. Senior Forward Bryan Wioncek put the equalizer past Salem goalie Brandon DeMars. Garrett Hyman and McCabe earned assists. Hyman, from junior forward Kevin Tollison and Kondratec, put the Chiefs up, 3-2. Then, with time winding down, Salem Coach Fred Feiler pulled his goalie for an extra shooter and it paid off as Adam

Gillikin knocked a shot past Canton’s goalie Tony Hylko to even things up, 3-3, according to Behen. “Salem played real hard despite a disappointing season,” Behen said. “We helped them out by going to the box a lot. “I think the only problems we have are when we go to the box a lot,” he added. “Unfortunately, it’s some of our best players taking unnecessary penalties.” Canton will host a crossover game against Stevenson at 8:00 p.m. tomorrow at the Arctic Edge arena in Canton Township.

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# Tigers - Belleville prepares for Mega rematch

FROM PAGE 10

We can't allow teams to do that." **Belleville 72, Dearborn 42**  
The victory against Willow Run was fresh off a 30-point triumph against Dearborn last Tuesday.

Freeman led the way again with a double-double. He scored 19 points with 10 rebounds and four assists. Tommie Clark also scored 19 in the effort and Samarco added 10. Senior forwards Demarcus Boone and Stephone Frederick joined in the mix with eight and six respectively.

Geoff Inch scored 11 points in the first quarter for Dearborn, which kept it a close race, 19-18 with Belleville in the lead. After that, the Tigers tightened up their

defense and held Dearborn to single digits the rest of the way for a 72-42 win.

"We didn't do a good job of fighting through the screens in

*"We didn't do a good job of fighting through the screens in the first."*

**Belleville Coach Mike Krogel**

the first," Krogel said. "After that I think the kids did a good job - we held them to 24 points the rest of the way."

The 17-1 Tigers took on Detroit

Northwestern on Tuesday but the results were unavailable at press time.

Krogel said they would use the game to prepare them mentally for the rematch with the Romulus Eagles tomorrow night.

Romulus unexpectedly lost to Ypsilanti on Friday, leaving the door open for Belleville to win the conference outright. Until last week the best the Tigers could have done was tie for the championship-if they defeated the Eagles. Now, if they overcome last month's brutal loss and come in to Romulus and pull out an upset, they will be crowned champions.

"We're going to have to make every possession count," Krogel said. "We can't waste shots and we can't turn the ball over."



Tommie Clark (23) and Mike Donaldson (13) defend against Willow Run's Brandon Denson in Friday night's game at Belleville.

# Chiefs - Canton hoopsters play for championship

FROM PAGE 10

points, respectively. Junior forward Andre Bridges chipped in with eight points - all of them in the first quarter.

The team hit eight triples; Houdek hit four of them.

The team was down, 9-0, early in the first but Houdek nailed two of his triples to help the Chiefs catch up. They did and overtook the lead, 15-14, by the end of the quarter. They faltered some in the second where Western managed to regain the lead, 29-27, at

*"When those three guards star scoring it really opens things up for us."*

**Canton Coach Charlie Paye**

the halfway point.

Canton regrouped in the third and outscored the Warriors, 20-11,

to take the lead for good. They held on in the final session for the 63-53 win.

Again the Chiefs only turned the ball over eight times and were 13 of 19 from the line.

The Championship game was Wednesday night at Walled Lake Central. The results were unavailable at press time.

Win or lose, the Chiefs will start preparing for the district tournament next week at Northville. They play Northville in the first round at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 28.

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# Wrestle

FROM PAGE 10

Vandenvossche, 4-1, to start the meet.

Then, Canton suffered four straight losses, including two by pins at the 215-pound and heavyweight classes. Ryan Schnettler got things back on track for Canton with a 17-1 win against Adam Rowe. Canton traded blows again with Churchill with a loss at 112 and a win at 119, when Jay Fleischmann defeated Tim Hecksel, 13-3.

Fleischmann's victory sparked Canton as they went on and won the next five. Pete Bonneau, at 125, pinned Jim Roberts in 1:59; Corey Phillips (130) defeated Justin Smith 11-5; Ryan Webb (135) pinned Dan Smalls in 1:13; Alex Freitag (140) defeated Dale Rush 9-0; and Konrad Konsitzke (145) overcame Josh Kelley, 6-4.

After the break there was no stopping the Chiefs. But Salem's Jeremy Henderson got his team off to a good start first with a 7-3 victory against Pat McWhirter at 189 pounds. Canton's P. J. Caram, at 215, defeated Alex Smith, 13-2, and heavyweight Donnie Laramie pinned Salem's Steve Kaptur in 53 seconds.

In the 103-pound weight class, Salem's Jeremy Stankewitz won his match, 11-2, against Schnettler but 112-pounder Nick Poole defeated Salem's Nick Steiger, 11-0.

Then Salem won three in a row. Matt Keffler (119) defeated Fleischmann, 7-9; Cory Mervyn (125) pinned Bonneau in 1:50; and Ryan Stump (130) pinned Jon McCue in 3:44.

Canton won the rest of the way out with six wins-two by pin and one by forfeit.

Phillips (135) overcame Scott Fysh, 6-4; Webb (140) pinned Ryan Olsen in 1:32; Konsitzke (145) pinned Jake Bennett in 35 seconds; Faraj (152) defeated Guy, 9-5; Amberg held off Kevin Mlymek, 5-2; and Kiel Price (171) won by forfeit.

Canton also participated in the district individual tournament on Saturday where they had five wrestlers-Webb, Phillips, Konsitzke, McWhirter and Amburg-qualify for the regional competition this Saturday.

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# Ypsilanti Braves upset favored Romulus, 71-70

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

It wasn't quite the outcome that Romulus Coach Nate Oats anticipated – or was used to – when his Eagles faced the Ypsilanti Braves on Friday night.

It came down to the final minutes, but the Braves pulled out an upset and beat Romulus, 71-70.

Romulus was leading, 70-68, with 2:06 remaining in the game but turnovers and failed opportunities allowed Ypsi the chance. And it was Marvon Sanders that took advantage.

He knotted the score at 70 when he intercepted a pass and turned it in to a lay-up for two with about 1:27 remaining. He then drew a foul and hit his second shot from the line to give the Braves the coveted one-point lead with just 19 seconds left in regulation.

Romulus had opportunities on their next two possessions but failed to drop the shots. Dante Williams lofted a shot at the buzzer but it didn't fall either, giving the Braves the victory.

Romulus committed 26 turnovers and gave up 14 offensive rebounds in the loss – two other things Oats wasn't used to.

"We never give up that many offensive rebounds," he said. "They were quicker on

the loose balls – they seemed to want it more."

Romulus only grabbed eight offensive boards in the game.

Romulus's star point guard, Jarret Smith, got caught up in early foul trouble and was forced to the bench – another key component in the loss.

During the time Smith was out, there was a 10-point swing in the game and Ypsilanti closed out the third period with a 57-54 lead, according to Oats.

Smith came back in the fourth but earned his last foul with about 3:00 left to play. Ypsi's junior point guard, Woodell Payne, also fouled out about two minutes before Smith.

"His absence didn't appear to have the same affect on the their team," Oats said. "Not

having Smith really hurt us."

Senior forward Avery Stephenson led all scorers with 20. He also led the Eagles with seven rebounds. Dante Williams added 13 and Geryn Reese 11. Despite foul trouble Smith still knocked down 10 in the effort.

Senior Josh Young led Ypsi with 18 points, freshman James Frazier added 16 and Payne, 11.

The victory redeemed the Braves' double-overtime loss to the Eagles last month.

However, Ypsilanti isn't the only team gunning for a little redemption. Romulus will host the Belleville Tigers tomorrow night – a team they upset, 80-43, on January 28th on Belleville's home court.

This time, Oats expects it to be a different game.

"They're playing a lot better," he said, "and we're not guaranteed to shoot as well as we did the first time. We can't expect to turn the ball over 28 times and still expect to win – we'll have to protect the ball better. And if we lose, it's not because the kids didn't play hard."

Romulus 78, Huron 62

The Eagles walked away with more favorable results on Tuesday, when they defeated Ann Arbor Huron, 78-62.

"We jumped ahead early and coasted from there," Oats said.

Romulus had a 38-28 lead at the half and carried it through to the end for the victory.

Reese led the way with 21. Smith was solid with 17 and also had nine rebounds and seven assists. Williams knocked down 14 while Devin Searcy added seven and led the team with 10 rebounds.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN

ORDINANCE 02-01-05

PROPOSED REZONING MAP

Second reading of ordinance for adoption.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ZONING ORDINANCE 6-6-92, AS AMENDED, OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BY AMENDING THE ZONING MAP IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

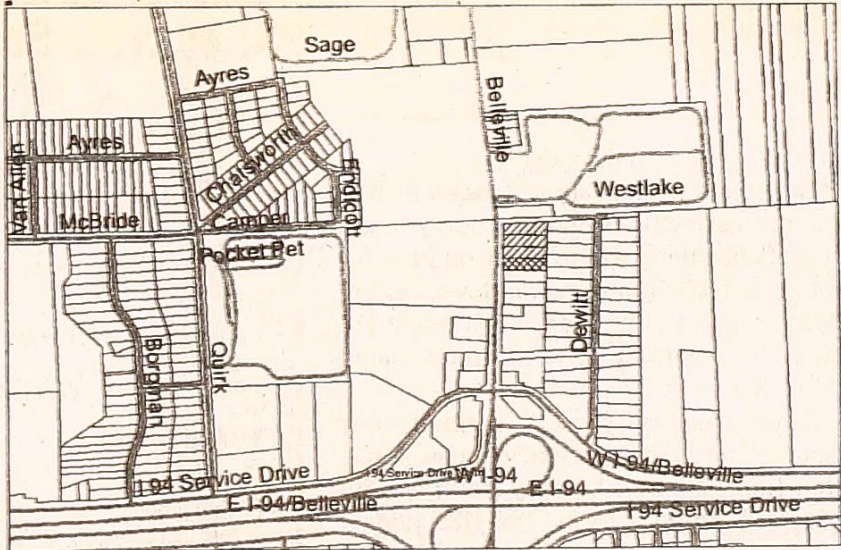
THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ORDAINS:

**Section 1.** The Zoning Map in connection with the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Van Buren shall be amended so that the zoning of the following described property to wit:

Ordinance Number 02-01-05

To rezone parcel number(s): Parcel number Parcel number V125-83-059-01-0021-000 known as lot 21, V125-83-059-01-002-000 known as lot 22 and V-125-83-059-01-0023-000 known as lot 23 from R-1C Single Family Residential to C-1 General Business.

**Legal Description of Property:**  
Parcel number V125-83-059-01-0021-000 known as lot 21, V125-83-059-01-002-000 known as lot 22 and V-125-83-059-01-0023-000 known as lot 23 located on the east side of Belleville Road between Tyler Road and Interstate 94 North Service Drive.



**Section 2.** All Ordinances and parts of Ordinance in conflict herewith are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

**Section 3.** This Ordinance shall take effect upon its adoption and publication.

**Section 4.** This Ordinance is hereby declared to have been adopted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren, Country of Wayne, State of Michigan, at a Regular Meeting held on the 15th day of February, 2005.

Yeas: Hart, Rochowiak, Payne, Jahr, Budd, Herman and King.  
Nays: None.  
Absent: None.

This Ordinance shall be immediately recorded by the Township Clerk in the Township Ordinance Book as soon as it is adopted, which record shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Supervisor and Clerk and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township within ten (10) days after its passage.

I hereby certify that Ordinance 02-01-05 was published in the Belleville Enterprise, a newspaper circulating within the Charter Township of Van Buren.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC  
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King  
Township Supervisor

Publish: February 24, 2005

Continued from page 8

On February 22, 2005 Lincoln Consolidated Schools will have an election in conjunction with Washtenaw County. Polls will be open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. In addition, the Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, February 19, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The last day to vote absentee is Monday, February 21, 2005 and the Clerk's Office will be open 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Van Buren Township residents living in Lincoln Consolidated School District will vote one last time in their old school precinct at Bessie Hoffman School. For additional information contact the Clerk's Office at 734.699.8909.

The Recreation Department announced the following events: Summer Camp program registration will begin on Monday, March 7th. The annual Marshmallow Drop will be held on Saturday, March 19th and the rainout date is Sunday, March 20th. In addition, a pancake breakfast will be held prior to the Marshmallow Drop in the Van Buren Township Gymnasium at 8:00 a.m. For further information on classes and programs contact the Recreation Department at 734.699.8921.

Director Ross stated the Daddy Daughter Dance was well attended with over 500 participants with a good time had by all.

On Thursday, February 17th at the Fred C. Fischer Library the new equipment purchased by the Rotary Club will be demonstrated for the public to view old local newspapers which have been scanned in.

**AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items):** A resident stated his opinion regarding public hearing notices being posted to the cable channel, broadcasting Planning Commission Meetings on the cable channel, the possible Saratoga project, and view on staff.

**CLOSED SESSION:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Payne moved, Hart seconded to adjourn at 11:02 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joannie D. Payne, CMC  
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King  
Supervisor

Publish: February 24, 2005

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# BUSINESS

## Life-long friends open new Plymouth shop

Jason Carmel Davis  
Staff Writer

The word dueto is Spanish for duet, or couple. That's the idea behind the newest boutique in downtown Plymouth, Dueto.

Nicole Jaskulka and Alexandra Papasifakis—two lifelong friends—are co-owners of the shop. They grew up houses away from each other in Troy and, after countless hours of research, decided to open up their clothing, jewelry and accessory shop in Plymouth. Jaskulka and Papasifakis studied elementary education and pre-med, respectively, but, after they graduated in 2003, they weren't sure if those fields were something they really wanted to get into.

"We studied completely unrelated fields in college, and we weren't happy with our prospective career choices," Papasifakis said. "This is something we've always wanted to do."

Both women said their parents were very supportive of their business venture. They also said that since they don't have any obligations to anyone else, this would be the best time in their lives to take this risk, because they have time to recover if everything doesn't work out.

The name of the boutique also signifies what is sold there. Both men's and

women's clothing is housed in the shop—which, Papasifakis said, signifies a duet, or a couple.

Located at 470 Forest St. in Forest Plaza, Dueto will take over the space left vacant by Mia Bella. The two young entrepreneurs purchased the shop in November 2004, and have been preparing for their Feb. 26 grand opening ever since.

"It's been a lot of work," Papasifakis said. "But after we did all our research and started to meet people, everything just fell in place."

Dueto specializes in fashions from upscale European and American designers. Both Jaskulka and Papasifakis—who say they have worked in retail since they were 16—have gone to trade shows in New York and Los Angeles and hand picked what they will display. The shop features a variety of new and upcoming designers, many of whom have not been available in Michigan.

"I think the area needed something like this to target a younger demographic," Papasifakis said. "There's a lot of young people moving to this area, and that's the niche we wanted to fill."

"A lot of the stuff we have, you can't get it in Michigan," Jaskulka said. "I think we have a lot of things in here that will catch people's eye."



Nicole Jaskulka and Alexandra Papasifakis—two lifelong friends—are co-owners of the newest clothing boutique in downtown Plymouth, Dueto. Dueto specializes in fashions from upscale European and American designers.

### PUBLIC NOTICE WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER

For your convenience, the Wayne County Treasurer's Office will be open on two consecutive Saturdays, February 19th and 26th from 8:00am to 3:00pm, for walk-in tax payments. Delinquent tax information will not be available by telephone on these dates. However, please visit our website for additional information.

To avoid long lines at the end of February we urge you to pay your taxes near the beginning of the month. Unpaid county taxes for tax year ending 2002, are subject to foreclosure.

Raymond J. Wojtowicz  
Wayne County Treasurer  
(313)-224-5990  
www.treasurer.waynecounty.com

Publish: February 24, 2005

# CLASSIFIED

01. Obituaries
02. In Memoriam
03. Cards of Thanks
04. Monuments & Cemetery Plots
05. Personal
06. Legal Notices
07. Attorneys
08. Entertainment
09. Lost & Found
10. Coming Events
30. Help Wanted

31. Help Wanted Sales
32. Help Wanted Drivers
33. Child Care
34. Specialized Services
35. Situations Wanted
40. Business Opportunity
42. Pawn Shops
43. Money to Loan
44. Music Lessons
45. Art Lessons
46. Private Instruction
47. Schools

50. Pets & Supplies
54. Rummage Sales
55. Farm Equipment/Supplies
56. Garage Sales
57. Antiques
58. Flea Markets
59. Auctions
60. Misc. Sales
61. Misc. Items
62. Building Supplies
63. Business and Office Equipment

64. Lawn & Garden Supplies
65. Tree Service
66. Landscape / Nurseries
67. Garden Plant / Supplies
68. Garden / Produce
70. Masonry / Brickwork
72. Machinery Tools
73. Musical Merchandise
74. Sporting Goods
75. Boats / Accessories
76. Remodeling & Renovations
77. Recreation Vehicles

78. Hunting / Fishing
82. Wanted to Buy
87. Room for Rent
88. Duplexes for Rent
89. Apartments for Rent
90. Condos for Rent
92. Business Places for Rent
93. Banquet Halls
94. Farm Land for Rent
95. Garages for Rent
96. Houses for Rent
97. Cottages for Rent

98. Mobile Homes for Rent
99. Mobile Home Lots for Rent
100. Will Share
101. Wanted to Rent
102. Storage
103. Business with Property
104. Farms and Acreage
105. Mobile Homes for Sale
106. Houses for Sale
107. Condos for Sale
108. Lake and Resort
109. Income Property

110. Lots for Sale
111. Out of State Property
112. Commercial Lease
113. Real Estate Wanted
114. Auto Accessories
115. Autos for Sale
116. Antique & Classic Cars
117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
118. Freebies
119. Auto Repairs
120. Motorcycles
121. Autos Wanted

### 1. Obituaries

**SWEDREN.** Irene M., age 85 of Romulus, February 19, 2005.

Beloved wife of the late Albert.

Dear mother of Ron (Patti) and Sherry Swedren; Richard (Alice) Zunk, Bob (Joan) Randall, Beverly (Donald) Lockart and Shirley (Giles) Bateman. Loving Grandmother to 24 Grandchildren and 43 Great-Grandchildren. She is also survived by 3 sisters, Faye Oleszczuk, Leona Distel and Betty Wickits. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Ada Shaneck, a son, Jim Zunk and 5 brothers, Leslie, Floyd, Don, Glenn and Maynard.

Funeral services were at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, Huron Twp. Interment in Michigan Memorial Park.

**WAHRMAN,** Constance M., age 93, February 17, 2005. Beloved wife of the late

Albert Wahrman. Dearest mother of Mary Lee (Albert) Charlet and Donald (Lynn) Wahrman. Grandmother of Lynne (Brian) Agar, Michele (Tony) Vickers, Philip (Laurie) Charlet, Ann (Ken) Fladby, Glen (Terry) Wahrman, Sara (Greg) Leshok, Paul (Julie) Wahrman. Great-Grandmother of 18, Great-Great-Grandmother of 7. Dear sister-in-law of Barbara Wahrman (the late Fred). Aunt of Susan (Jerry) Cichowski and Debbie (Don) Klug. Service and burial at a later date in Romulus, MI. Memorials may be made to the Romulus Methodist Church, 11160 Olive St., Romulus, MI 48174 or Pines

of Sarasota, 1501 N. Orange Ave., Sarasota, FL 34236

### 30. Help Wanted

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**59. Auctions**  
  
CITY OF WESTLAND  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION  
On March 1, 2005 the Westland Police Department will conduct public auctions of impounded abandoned vehicles. The first auction will begin promptly at 10:am at Westland Service Towing, 37501 Cherry Hill, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1988 Ford Escort  
StWgn Silver  
1FAPP2895JW149999

1994 Ford Probe  
2 Dr. Blue  
1ZVLT22B9R5180624

1989 Lincoln Towncar  
4 Dr. White  
1LNBM82F0KY789182

1996 Ford Taurus  
4 Dr. Tan  
1FALP52U8TG125514

1989 Mercury Topaz  
4 Dr. Blue  
1MEPM36X0KK659372

The second auction will begin promptly at 10:30am at T&G Towing, 33032 Ford Rd., Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1992 Ford Ranger  
PU-Trk Green  
1FTCR10A0NUA15762

The third auction will begin promptly at 11:00am at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1981 Olds Cultass  
2 Dr. Green  
2G3AR47A3B2470850

1995 Ford F-150  
PU Trk White  
1FTEF15N0SNA03422

2004 Saturn Ion  
2 Dr. Silver  
1G8AW12F24Z121196

1997 Ford Taurus  
4 Dr. Black  
1FALP52UXVG301143

1995 Ford Windstar  
StWgn Tan  
2FMDA514XSBB10368

1992 Ford Crown Vic  
4 Dr. White  
2FACP74W6NX102627

1989 Ford F-150  
PU Trk Black  
1FTDF15Y6KLB41435

1991 Honda Accord  
4 Dr. Silver  
JHMCB7657MC045961

1989 Ford Tempo  
4 Dr. Red  
1FAPP36X5KK219811

1995 Chevy Beretta  
2 Dr. Maroon  
1G1LV1541SY324362

The fourth auction will begin promptly at 11:30am at Bar Towing, 39025 Warren Rd., Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1992 Ford Tempo  
4 Dr. Blue  
1FAPP36X0NK137473

1982 Buick Regal  
2 Dr. Burgundy  
1G4AJ47A6CH242719

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

30 day notice of action  
Due to unknown ownership, 30 day notice is hereby given that the vehicle listed below will be auctioned after MARCH 26, 2005 unless it is claimed by the owner prior to that time:

1987 Saab 900S  
4 Dr. Blue  
YS3AS35D9H2006559

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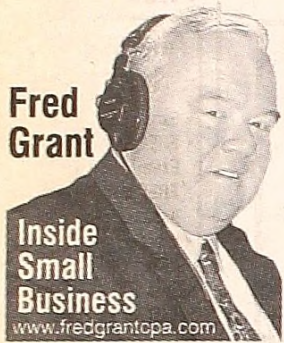


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# TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

## You can take these deductions even if you don't itemize



Fred Grant

Inside Small Business

www.fredgrantcpa.com

You're probably familiar with the deduction choice you must make when you file your tax return. You either have enough deductions (such as mortgage interest, charitable contributions, and medical expenses) to itemize, or you take the standard deduction, a set amount that doesn't require you to list specific deductible items.

What you may not be as familiar with are those deductions that you are allowed to take "above the line"; that is, deductions that you can take in addition to your itemized deductions or your standard deduction.

Here's a quick rundown of above-the-line deductions you shouldn't miss on your 2004 tax return.

A deduction of up to \$250 for classroom supplies purchased by teachers for use in their classrooms.

A deduction of up to \$3,000 for individual retirement account contributions if you're under age 50. If you're 50 or older, you can deduct up to \$3,500.

A deduction of up to \$2,500 for interest paid on student loans.

A deduction of up to \$2,000 or \$4,000 for college tuition and fees, depending on your income level.

A deduction for the expenses connected with a job-related move.

A deduction for 50% of the self-employment tax paid if you are self-employed.

A deduction for alimony paid. (Note that child support is not deductible.)

A deduction of up to \$2,000 for the purchase of a new hybrid gas/electric car.

Most of these deductions have

qualification requirements or income limitations. Don't overlook above-the-line tax deductions. An added benefit: These deductions decrease your "adjusted gross income," an important number on your tax return. The lower your adjusted gross income, the more likely you are to qualify for credits and deductions subject to income thresholds. For details or assistance in finding all the deductions to which you're entitled, give us a call @ 734-455-1040

Listen to Fred Grant's radio show  
"Inside Small Business" every weekend on  
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## Use a CRUT to keep peace in your family.



Curt Whipple

Most people generally leave their IRA directly to their spouse. The surviving spouse can roll it over into his or her IRA, take distributions, and leave the balance to the children.

The kids will then have the opportunity to stretch out the required payments, as well as the tax deferral over their own lifetimes. But what if you have children from a previous

Marriage who don't get along with your new spouse? Would the children get cut off after you die, thereby upsetting your intention to pass whatever remains of your IRA to them?

One way to solve this problem is to leave part or all of your IRA to a Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT). The CRUT would make pre-determined payments (A minimum of 5%) to your surviving spouse for his or her life span. After your spouse dies your children would receive payments, for the rest of their lives. When they die, whatever remains in the CRUT would pass to your favorite charity.

There is no income liability as long as the CRUT is funded after your death. Nor are the earnings within the CRUT taxable. However, the payments made to your surviving spouse and children will be taxed to them as ordinary income.

The CRUT must allow for at least 10% of the trust's present value to pass to the charity. The number is calculated as if your beneficiaries were to live an average life span. For some heirs, this may be a modest price to pay for the benefits of longer tax deferral and an estate tax reduction.

After the last beneficiary dies the CRUT ends and the remaining funds transfer to the charity. Some investors have used an irrevocable wealth replacement trust to replace the assets that would go to the charity and provide a tax-free bequest to other beneficiaries.

If you would like to learn more about how to provide for your beneficiaries and make a gift of charity, please call me @ (734) 844-3400.



Brian Mell, Financial Consultant  
DFCU Financial  
Canton Branch, through  
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## Financially SPEAKING

### Q - When should I start planning for financial independence?

A - It's never too early to start saving and investing for retirement. The sooner you start, the more money you may have when you retire. On the other hand, if you wait too long, you may have to postpone retirement until enough money has been saved. Take this example\* of a 25-year-old and a 40-year-old who both begin contributing the maximum amount to an IRA and earn the same rate of return with the goal of retiring at 65. With an additional 15 years of investing, the 25-year-old would have accumulated \$1,218,709 and the 40-year-old only \$334,913. This just illustrates that the early bird may retire fatter. All DFCU Financial Partners Financial Consultants through our broker-dealer CUSO Financial Services, L.P. (CFS) are Chartered Retirement Planning Counselors through the College of Financial Planning. They're located at each DFCU Financial branch and have the experience and all the necessary credentials to help you. For a complimentary consultation stop by or call us at 313.336.2700 or toll free at 888.336.2700 outside the local area. Or visit [www.dfcufinancial.com](http://www.dfcufinancial.com).



\*Example assumes the individuals contribute \$4,000 to an IRA each year and earn an average of 8% on their investments over the life of the IRA. Figures quoted are for illustrative purposes and are not indicative of past or future results for any specific investment.

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## Paying Your Mortgage Off Early



Nelson Wilson  
AVP-Senior Loan Officer  
The West Team/Chase Home Finance

You've decided to pay your mortgage off early. What is the best way to accomplish this? Conventional wisdom would have you pay it off by making an additional principal payment each month along with the regular house payment or by paying half the regular mortgage payment every two weeks. By pursuing either of these strategies the scheduled amortization of the mortgage is accelerated and paid off early.

I would offer a slight variation on these strategies. You might consider making an additional principal payment but instead of making it to the lender, make those payments into a liquid investment account, like a mutual fund for example. You could continue to make payments into this investment account until the balance in it equals the balance of your mortgage. Then you pay off the mortgage completely.

By doing it this way you would have had liquid funds available if some need arose, i.e. an emergency or loss of employment. By having those extra payments in a liquid account you could access them readily. If those payments had gone into 'home equity' they would have been illiquid and not readily available, what is called frozen, non-working capital. Also if you were earning the historical average return on investment you could probably pay the mortgage off even more quickly.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with paying off your mortgage early. Just make sure that your interests are served first.

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# THE SCENE

## Comic book hero battles demons from hell

Imagine this: a movie where Keanu Reeves is dressed all in black, travels between two different worlds, sees things only he can see and is the selected 'chosen one' to save humankind.

Sound familiar?

Well it's not like somebody dusted off the old *Matrix* script – you know, the good one – changed Reeves' name from Neo to John Constantine and shoved a ridiculous-looking 'cross'-bow shotgun in his hands and told him to save the world, again.

Instead, we get the classic good against evil, heaven versus hell story in Warner Bros. new special-effect-laden movie *Constantine*, based on the DC comic book, *Hellblazer*.

The story revolves around John Constantine (Reeves), who was born with the ability to recognize half-breed angels and demons that walk the planet in human form. However, as a teenager he was driven by the visions to take a life: his own. He failed, but because of the attempt, he has literally been to hell and back.

Now he's living on borrowed time and is marked as an attempted suicide, which means he is destined for hell regardless of what good he does. But that doesn't stop him from trying to get back in the good graces of heaven. He spends his days guarding the earthly border between heaven and hell, sending Satan's minions back to the fiery depths below in order to keep the balance of good and evil in check.

However, Gabriel (Tilda Swinton), God's gatekeeper on Earth, and Satan's emissary Balthazar (Gavin Rossdale) constantly remind Constantine that he can't buy his way into heaven.

To start, Constantine is called to an exorcism where a demon tries to not only possess a young girl but to actually enter the physical world – a blatant breach of the balance agreement. Later, he's 'bugged' by a full-fledged demon walking the streets of Los Angeles in the open.

Things really start to get out of hand once police detective Angela Dodson (Rachel Weisz) enlists his help to solve the mysterious death of her twin sister Isabel (also played by Weisz). From there, they are sent spiraling through a supernatural flight between the real world and the hell that hides just under the surface of contemporary Los Angeles—the City of Angels.

Along the way, Constantine and Dodson are aided by what few allies he has. Among them are Chaz (Shia LaBeouf), Constantine's faithful driver and hopeful apprentice; Midnite (Djimon Hounsou), a former faith healer and witch doctor; and Father Hennessy (Pruitt Taylor Vince), a weary alcoholic priest who has obviously seen better days.

To me, a comic book is a comic book regardless of what form it is in, be it a flimsy paper production with the story shoved down the throats of the reader with flashy art or a movie production where the story is shoved down the throat of the viewer with flashy special effects. Either way, it's usually a good idea that's poorly written, but backed by fantastic computer generated graphics.

It's not necessarily a bad thing. Thanks to the advancement of digital special effects in the last decade we can be thankful for comic book adaptations such as *Spiderman* and *X-Men*, which may never have been possible otherwise. Now, we no longer have to settle for a green-painted Lou Ferrigno or Nicholas Hammond merely running down the streets of New York as *Spiderman* in 1977 rather than swinging, leaping and flying.

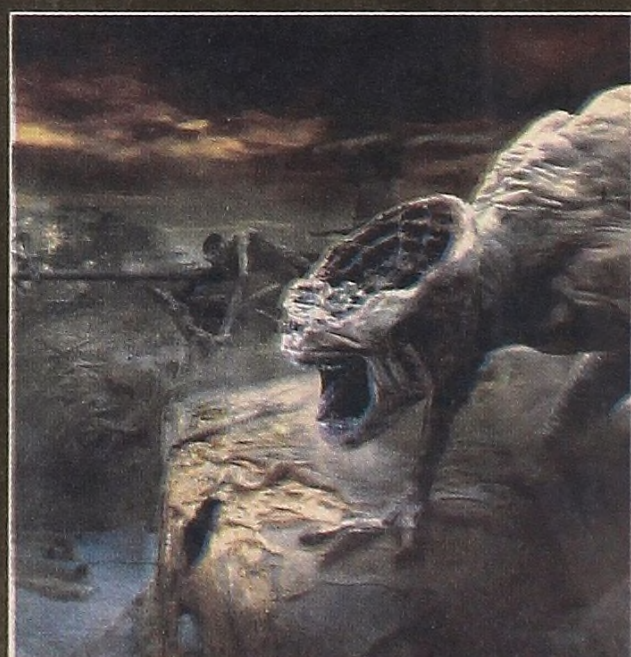
*Constantine* does offer some spectacular effects but at times they appeared blurry and out of focus – much like the storyline. During the hell sequences I half expected to see Agent Smith pop out of one of the burned-out abandoned buildings with his congenial, "Mr. Anderson," line.

Computer advancements will never be able to make Reeves a better actor, though. I don't know how many movies he's made since *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure*, but I still wait for him to finish every sentence with 'dude.'

But I figure since the film industry has gone to hell the last few years why not go see a film about the damned place.

# CONSTANTINE

Reviewed By  
Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer





THE SCENE

Local girl makes stage debut this weekend

John Counts  
Staff Writer

While many wannabe actors and actresses who move to Los Angeles change their names, 13-year-old Molly Wallace of Plymouth has something different in mind—changing Hollywood to Mollywood.

Before she takes Tinseltown by storm, though, she's been cutting her teeth on the local stage. Wallace, who has been acting since she was 7 years old, has already been in numerous local productions in the Plymouth-Canton area.

Now, she is appearing at the Village Theater in Canton with a professional troupe of touring actors brought to Michigan from West Virginia by Arts Coordinator Jennifer Tobin.

Wallace will appear in Sean O'Leary's second play to be performed at the Village Theater this month, *Rain in the Hollows*, which starts at 8 p.m. tonight through Saturday and at 2 p.m. on Sunday. O'Leary, and his father, Hal—who is the director and actor in *Pound*—come from the same area of West Virginia where Tobin grew up. She brought the group to Canton as part of the Emerging Artist series.

When Tobin was informed that one of the plays being brought to the Village Theater needed a young actress, she said Wallace immediately came to mind.

"She's got what it takes," she said.

Wallace said getting her start so young with the Whistle Stop Players was a little daunting.

"I was afraid there were going to be a lot of older kids, but I got up there and loved it," she said. "Now, I feel totally com-



Molly Wallace

fortable."

Since then, Wallace has appeared in more plays and musicals than she can remember, the latest being with Ever After Productions performances of *Annie*, *The Music Man* and, most recently, *The Wizard of Oz*.

Then, when she had gotten the hang of things locally, Wallace said the auditions for the O'Leary play was another cause for concern.

"I was a little intimidated. These peo-

ple were professional actors," she said.

She landed the role of Kit in *Rain in the Hollows*, which is about a journalist who returns to his native West Virginia to confront his larger-than-life brother whose legendary deeds are accompanied by a maddening disregard for rules, laws, or the consequences of his struggling family.

Kit is the daughter of the larger-than-life brother. Wallace said the role is unlike any she's had before.

"The character is a lot more complex. I really had to get into what I was doing because it means a lot more to the play," she said.

That meant a lot of rehearsing with the

experienced actors.

"It's different than what I'm used to. It's really getting down to business. I've had to learn how to take more criticism."

Wallace said she hopes to act in more plays throughout high school and study drama in college. Afterward, she hopes to move to Hollywood—or Mollywood, if she has her way.

"I want to be a famous actress some day," she said. "I want to be a star."

Tickets for the shows can be purchased beforehand for \$12 at the Summit on the Park or two hours prior to the performance at the Village Theater box office. For more information, call (734) 394-5460.

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